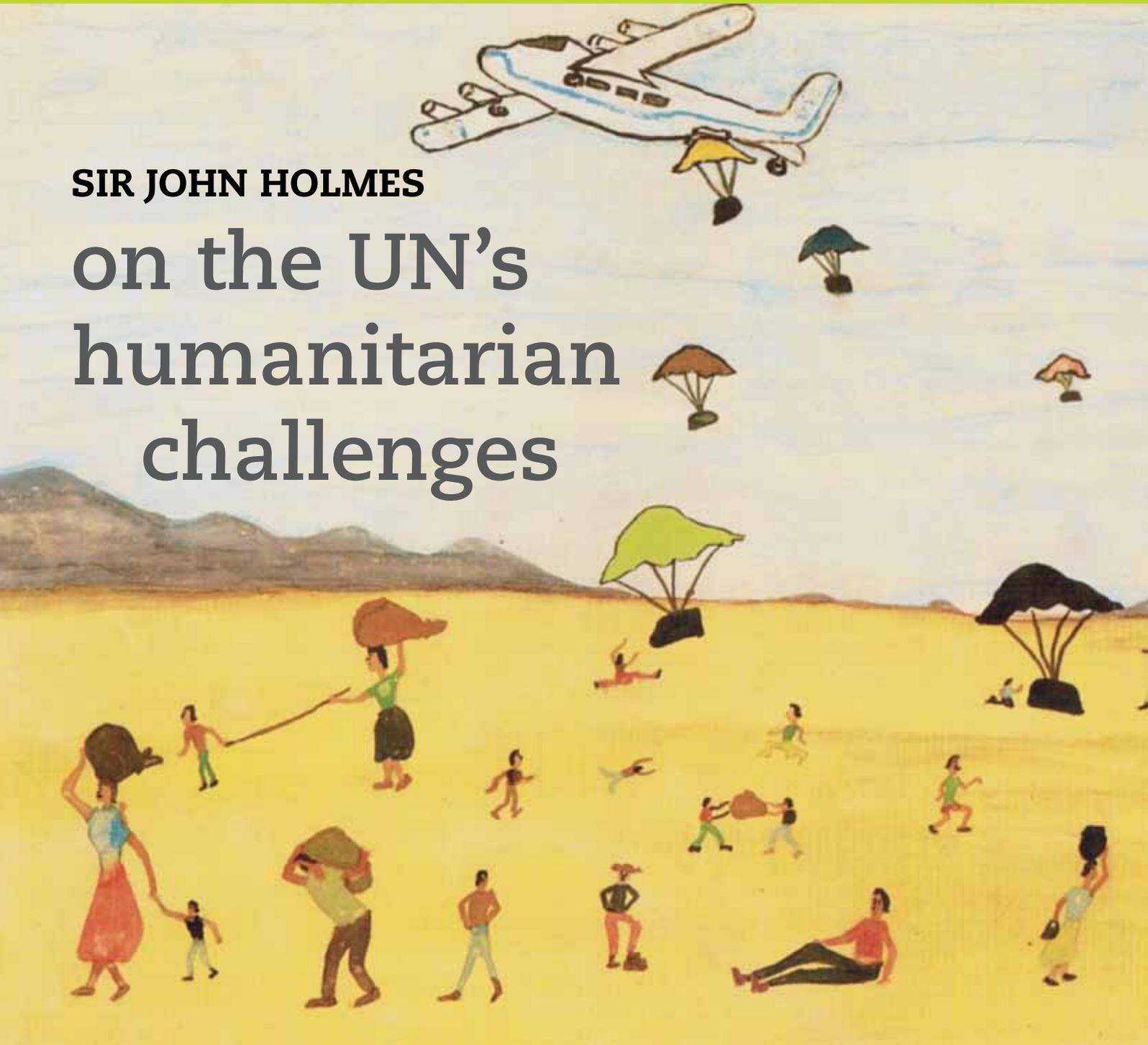


# NEW WORLD

**SIR JOHN HOLMES**

## on the UN's humanitarian challenges



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UNA-UK

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# WHO WILL CHAMPION THEIR NEEDS?

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Members wishing to use the service should contact Rich Nelmes on 020 7766 3456 or [nelmes@una.org.uk](mailto:nelmes@una.org.uk)

### Letter from the Editor

2008 was the deadliest year to date for aid workers. Sir John Holmes, the UN's humanitarian chief, spoke of the humanitarian challenges facing the UN at UNA-UK's Annual Conference in June 2009. This issue of New World features an abridged version of his speech (page 33), as well as a message from Navi Pillay on aid workers who have made the ultimate sacrifice (page 6). On page 11, Dr Bruce Jones analyses the challenges (and opportunities) for UN peacekeeping, and on page 28 we look at how the Millennium Development Goals are progressing in light of the global financial and food crises.

In this edition we are also launching 'Towards Zero' – our nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament initiative which builds on a long tradition of UNA-UK work in this field. Find out more on page 13. Climate change will be UNA-UK's other main campaigning priority in 2009-10. We are promoting the UN Secretary-General's campaign for a fair and effective global climate deal (page 24), and are urging all UNA-UK members and supporters to sign up to the 10:10 campaign and pledge to reduce their carbon footprint by 10% in 2010. UNA-UK is on board – are you?

Natalie Samarasinghe, Editor

### From the archive – 54 years ago

**THE COMING ATOMIC ERA**  
Geneva—and Then?  
By GERALD WENDT

**T**HE UNITED Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, which will meet at Geneva early in August, will be of rare significance for several reasons.

Firstly, it will open the second period of the atomic age, in which the beneficent uses of nuclear energy will replace its horrendous destructive power in the eyes of the peoples and plans of

governments. Secondly, it will be the first time in history that an impending revolution in the world's economy and the living conditions of many nations has been faced constructively and in advance by a world congress. Thirdly, such an approach to a new world problem is possible today only because of the mutual habits of co-operation which have developed during the decade of the United Nations existence.

Further, the conference is itself preliminary to the organisation of a permanent United Nations Atomic Energy Agency that will presumably administer the future programme of international co-operation.



"Baby play with nice ball?" How Low saw it three days after Hiroshima. (Reproduced by kind permission of the artist and London Express News and Features Services.)

From *UN News*, July-Sept 1955

To read the full article, visit [www.una.org.uk/newworld](http://www.una.org.uk/newworld)

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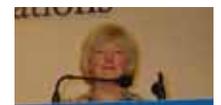
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**Annual Conference 2009**  
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## Introducing...

### Carol Hodson

UNA-UK's new Head of Governance and Finance brings with her a wealth of experience. After several years as Finance Director of the Prince's Trust, Carol joined the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and worked as their Director in Wales, later becoming Director of Volunteering at WRVS's head office. She then joined the South East England Regional Assembly as Director of Resources, where she established its initial financial and governance structures. Before moving to UNA-UK she worked as a management consultant.

Carol has a keen interest in the UN and recently gained a politics degree from the Open University. She has also volunteered for a number of locally-based organisations.

### Georgina Banks

Georgina was appointed Executive Assistant to the Executive Director in June. She also serves as UNA-UK's office manager. Georgina has an MA in Diplomatic Studies and a BA in Politics, both from the University of Leicester. Before joining UNA-UK, Georgina was PA to the Chief Executive Officer of a major private sector firm. She previously worked in Parliament, as Parliamentary Researcher to Dr Jenny Tonge MP (until her retirement from the House of Commons in 2005) and then to Julia Goldsworthy MP.

Georgina is delighted to have been given the opportunity to use her skills, experience and knowledge to contribute to an organisation as interesting and valuable as UNA-UK.

## Join us . . .

The United Nations Association of the UK (UNA-UK) is the UK's leading independent policy authority on the UN and a UK-wide grassroots membership organisation campaigning for a strong, credible and effective United Nations.

Every member of UNA-UK receives a free subscription to *New World*, containing news and comment on the UN. By joining you will also be invited to take part in campaigns and to attend conferences, seminars and other events.

This issue of *New World* is printed using vegetable-based inks on 100 per cent recycled chlorine- and acid-free paper from sustainable sources.

When you are done with the magazine, please recycle it or, better yet, pass it on to a friend.



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**The deadline for submission of material for the next issue of *New World* is noon on 3 December 2009**

The next issue will cover the period 1 January to 31 April 2010

All submissions should be typed and sent by e-mail where possible to [samarasinghe@una.org.uk](mailto:samarasinghe@una.org.uk). Photos should ideally be 300 dpi resolution

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The image on the cover is a painting by David Deng Aleu, a 16-year-old Sudanese refugee. He provides the following explanation: "Everybody is happy about the food drop. I am watching. A blind lady is being helped by a small boy. People are jumping to catch food". The image appears in *One day we had to run!*, a book by Sybella Wilkes published by Evans Brothers Ltd in association with UNHCR and Save the Children.



**Aid shortfall**

The UN is facing a gap of nearly \$5 billion in humanitarian funding as this year's crises in Gaza, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have caused its aid bill to soar. In an appeal to donors, Sir John Holmes, the UN's humanitarian chief, said the shortfall is "just a fraction" of recent bank bail-outs.

**Burma outrage**

In August Burma's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was sentenced to a further 18 months under house arrest. The sentence will prevent her from standing in next year's elections. There are currently over 2,100 political prisoners in Burma. UK Prime Minister Brown said he was "both saddened and angry" at the verdict of this sham trial.

**Half a nuke-free world**

The entire Southern hemisphere has become a nuclear-weapons-free zone (NWFZ) after Africa's NWFZ treaty entered into force on 15 July 2009.



© Toru Yamataka/AFP/Getty Images

**Climate targets**

In July, G8 leaders agreed to cut emissions by 80% by 2050. But they were vague about the base year for calculating reductions ('1990 or more recent'). Ban Ki-moon criticised their failure to set interim targets while Yvo de Boer, the UN's top climate change official, said rich countries must put US\$10 billion "on the table" to help developing countries to cope with climate change.

**Somalia strife**

UN compounds in Somalia were raided four times in July and August, forcing the Organisation to close down some of its operations. UN envoy Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah warned that "while the world focuses elsewhere, groups of foreign extremists are trying to take control of a strategically placed country".

Pew Research Center canvassed 26,397 people in 25 countries and found that opinions of the UN are positive in most areas of the world. Improvements were most pronounced in the US, where 61% now view the Organisation favourably, up from 48% in 2007 (British figures were 67% and 58% respectively). Middle Eastern views remain largely unfavourable. Israel was the only country with a sizable increase in negative opinion.

<< Taken from Pew Research Center, [www.pewglobal.org](http://www.pewglobal.org)

**Sexual violence tsar**

Ban Ki-moon has urged the creation of a senior UN post on women and armed conflict, with a particular focus on sexual violence. He has also called for investigations into sexual violence in the DRC, where the UN estimates that well over 200,000 women have been raped during the past 12 years.

**Appointment**

Yukiya Amano, Japan's current ambassador to the UN in Vienna, will succeed Mohamed ElBaradei as Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Amano is thought to be a reserved technocrat who will avoid politicising the UN's nuclear watchdog. His term begins on 1 December 2009.

**Resignation**

Lord Malloch-Brown has stepped down as FCO Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN for "personal and family reasons". The former UN Deputy Secretary-General has been a great supporter of both the UN and UNA-UK and will be sorely missed.

**Holy multilateralism**

In his Encyclical Letter, 'Charity in Truth', the Pope called for a strengthened UN "so that the concept of the family of nations can acquire real teeth". See [www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk) for the full text of the letter. ■

**Global thumbs up?**

% responding with a 'favourable' view of the UN

Indonesia	79%
South Korea	79%
Kenya	76%
France	74%
Poland	72%
Nigeria	71%
Canada	70%
Britain	67%
Germany	65%
Lebanon	62%
Spain	61%
United States	61%
Mexico	58%
Egypt	56%
Russia	56%
China	55%
Brazil	52%
Japan	45%
Jordan	44%
India	43%
Israel	32%
Argentina	30%
Palestinian ter.	30%
Pakistan	28%
Turkey	18%



## Aid workers deserve recognition... and protection



Navi Pillay

19 August is a date that is etched deep in the consciousness of the United Nations and the memories of those involved in humanitarian and human rights work around the world: the day in 2003 when 22 people, mostly UN staff, were killed in cold blood by a single bomb at the Canal Hotel in Baghdad.

It was by no means the first time that humanitarian aid workers, human rights defenders, peacekeepers and others working to improve the lot of the disadvantaged had been deliberately targeted by ruthless forces determined to create instability or subvert the basic laws and norms on which civilised society depends. My own organisation, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), experienced its first loss of staff on 4 February 1997, when five members of the Human Rights Field Operations were killed in Rwanda.

Sadly, since 19 August 2003, there have been numerous other assassinations of individuals and further bombs – most notably the one in Algiers on 11 December 2007 which took the lives of a further 17 UN staff members – targeting UN and NGO staff. And I have just learned that two more UN staff were among those killed on 25 August 2009 by a suicide bomber in Kabul. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to their families and colleagues.

In the case of the Baghdad and Algiers bombs, the perpetrators of these crimes were terrorist organisations. However, in

other cases, the killers have sometimes acted on behalf of a government, or for organs meant to be under the control of governments.

Killing those who are trying to help others is a particularly despicable crime, and one which all governments should join forces to prevent, and – when prevention fails – to punish. It is therefore appropriate – as a first step – that last

**‘Killing those who are trying to help others is a particularly despicable crime, and one which all governments should join forces to prevent, and – when prevention fails – to punish’**

December the global forum for all the world’s governments, the UN General Assembly, agreed to designate 19 August as World Humanitarian Day.

Humanitarian aid workers are on the frontline, trying to provide at least a minimum of material support and protection for the displaced, and for populations affected by conflict, chronic poverty, food shortages, natural disasters and other crises.

Humanitarian work and human rights are inextricably entwined. It is very often abuse of human rights that causes humanitarian crises in the first place. And without humanitarian aid, the basic human rights of millions of people – including the right to seek asylum from persecution, the right to education, and, most fundamental of all, the right to life – would be denied. Similarly, if human rights are ignored during a humanitarian crisis, the crisis will often deepen.

The Canal Hotel bombing rocked the UN system to its core. Among the dead was my predecessor as High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio

Vieira de Mello. Several staff from the OHCHR had gone with him on secondment to help the effort to bring peace and stability to Iraq.

Sergio was uniquely placed to provide the synthesis between humanitarian work, human rights, and political mediation. As High Commissioner for Human Rights, and as a former top official with the UN refugee agency and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, he saw with sharp clarity the essential, mutually reinforcing connections between humanitarian work, human rights and peacebuilding.

The UN staff who were killed and injured alongside him in the Canal Hotel came from a variety of backgrounds. Some were experts in providing humanitarian aid, some were human rights specialists, others were experienced in peacebuilding and political negotiations. They were all working in the common belief that they could contribute to rebuilding Iraq after decades of massive human rights abuses by the regime of Saddam Hussein, and the destructive conflict that removed him but was threatening to plunge the country into prolonged chaos and anarchy.

Would they have succeeded if the 19 August bomb had not exploded? Would the ensuing years of horrendous inter-ethnic strife, killing, rape and other forms of abuse that plagued Iraq have been mitigated or largely avoided? We shall never know.

But they, and all the aid workers like them around the world, past, present and future, most certainly deserve to have this day in the annual calendar devoted to their selfless, often unrewarding and sometimes dangerous efforts to improve the lives of others. ■

*Navi Pillay is UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. This piece is a version of her statement on the first World Humanitarian Day, 19 August 2009. Last year, the General Assembly designated 19 August as a day to pay tribute to all humanitarian workers who devote their time and energy to come to the rescue of innocent victims of war and natural catastrophes across the world.*

## Do we need a UN agency for HIV/AIDS?



Ngairé Woods



Devi Sridhar

In 1996 the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) was launched. Since its inception, the Secretariat has grown in staff and budget to over 900 employees and more than 80 country offices, and it has had an effect well beyond the UN system as an advocate for increased funding and attention to the AIDS epidemic.

UNAIDS now brings together 10 UN agencies around a joint mandate to lead, strengthen, coordinate, and support an expanded response to the AIDS epidemic. A new report by the UNAIDS Leadership Transition Working Group – an independent ad hoc panel – examines what the ‘value-added’ of this agency is.

Scope and legitimacy are two examples in the report. Scope: AIDS is not just a health issue. It uniquely impacts on working adults and family structures, and is associated with politically sensitive topics (sex and drugs) and stigmatised groups (e.g. sex workers). An umbrella organisation like UNAIDS is more suited to tackling the wide-ranging effects of and approaches to HIV/AIDS than a purely health-focused body. Legitimacy:

UNAIDS not only has the blessing of all UN Member States, it also has the potential to become the scientific expert on HIV/AIDS and thereby deliver much-needed guidance, similar to the role played by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

But despite its achievements, two broad concerns have been raised as to whether UNAIDS should continue in its current form.

First, the global health system is already uncoordinated, chaotic, messy and inefficient with an estimated 40 bilateral donors, 26 UN agencies, 20 global and regional funds, and 90 global health ini-

**‘AIDS is not just a health issue. It uniquely impacts on working adults and family structures, and is associated with politically sensitive topics and stigmatised groups’**

tiatives active at the moment. Many are outside the direct purview of UNAIDS and have played a prominent and novel role in fundraising, providing policy advice and working on the ground. Examples of such programmes include the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria; UNITAID; and the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative (CHAI). The risk is that new agencies will fragment the system even more and that UNAIDS (although created to be an umbrella agency) is not resolving that problem.

The key question for UNAIDS is whether it can contribute without further adding to the problem. The working group’s report proposes that it can – by

taking seriously the principles of the 2005 Paris and 2008 Accra Declarations on Aid Effectiveness through the One UN reform initiative, which seeks to harmonise programmes among UN actors at the country level. The alternative, however, is for all agencies to accept that the World Health Organization (WHO) leads on international health, and to return UNAIDS to being a special programme of WHO, rather than its own body.

The second concern is about where the added value of UNAIDS lies. Some argue (persuasively) that UNAIDS should avoid an expanding in-country delivery role and instead focus on its global political work. The recently published report underlines that as a UN body, UNAIDS can bring to bear the legitimacy of speaking for all its members. UNAIDS can use this power to advocate evidence-based approaches to prevention and treatment however politically unpalatable they may be. Equally, UNAIDS could be a forum for at-risk or affected communities to hold their governments to account for pledges made in respect of prevention and treatment for all. As a UN agency, UNAIDS has a unique capacity to do this. ■

*Professor Ngairé Woods is Director of the Global Economic Governance Programme at Oxford University and Co-Chair of the UNAIDS Leadership Transition Working Group.*

*Devi Sridhar is Postdoctoral Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford, and the Working Group’s Senior Researcher.*

*This independent ad hoc group, convened by the Center for Global Development and Oxford University’s Global Economic Governance Programme, has formulated a set of recommendations for the new UNAIDS executive director and governing board.*

*‘UNAIDS: Preparing for the Future’ is available at:  
[www.globaleconomicgovernance.org](http://www.globaleconomicgovernance.org)*



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## Copenhagen: four political essentials



Yvo de Boer

The UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen this December will be the moment in history in which humanity has the opportunity to rise to the challenge and decisively deal with climate change. It is beyond a shadow of doubt that greenhouse gas emissions have to be radically reduced to keep climate change from sliding into climate chaos.

In 2007 in Bali, the 192 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change committed themselves to launching negotiations on strengthened action against climate change. This negotiating process is to culminate in an ambitious agreed outcome at the end of 2009, which needs to enter into force before January 2013.

The remaining time is now incredibly short: three months to conclude what is one of the most complicated international negotiating processes today. That begs the question as to which political pre-requisites need to be resolved by Copenhagen in order to ensure that the basic components of an agreement are in place that can be rightly termed a success.

In order to enter into force around the world before 2013, the Copenhagen agreement must meet the political requirements of all participating countries. For this to happen, I believe that this year has to deliver clarity on four key political essentials.

First, clarity on ambitious legally-binding emission reduction targets by industrialised countries. Without ambitious emission reduction targets for industrialised countries, the international community will neither be taking the necessary action to address climate change, nor will developing countries have confidence that there is a willingness on the part of industrialised countries to take the lead in solving a problem that they have caused.

Second, clarity on the extent to which major developing countries are able to undertake nationally appropriate mitigation actions beyond what they are already doing. For many industrialised countries, particularly the US, it will be very difficult to conclude an agreement unless they can see that major developing countries are also willing to engage further.

**‘The remaining time is now incredibly short: three months to conclude what is one of the most complicated international negotiating processes today’**

A number of developing countries, such as China, India, Brazil and South Africa, have already developed national climate change or energy strategies that indicate the extent to which they feel that they are able – within the boundaries of their economic realities – to address the issue. Many developing countries are coming forward

with ideas for further nationally-appropriate mitigation measures that they could take.

Third, clarity on finance. The magnitude of developing country action will largely depend on the effective delivery of finance and clean technology through international co-operative action. There must be clarity on how significant financial resources will be generated to help developing countries both limit the growth of their emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

And finally, a review of the governance structure under the convention. If significant financial resources are to be generated for mitigation and adaptation, developing countries will want to have a representative say in how that money is to be allocated and spent. The governance structures have to function according to democratic principles, founded in equity.

There are many other important concerns that will feature in this year’s intense negotiations. But clarity on these four main areas will be essential for success at Copenhagen. ■

*Yvo de Boer is Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*

**Time is running out to keep us safe from climate change.**

December will see world leaders decide how to tackle global warming at the UN Climate summit in Copenhagen. They must deliver a fair deal that keeps global warming under two degrees C and protects the poorest and most vulnerable people.



The Stop Climate Chaos Coalition is 11 million strong. We are the committed supporters, campaigners, hearts, minds and voices of over 100 organisations. Together we can make our Government lead by example by quitting dirty coal and building a green economy.

Vote with your feet to stop climate chaos,  
London, 5 December 2009.

[www.stopclimatechaos.org](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org)



# In focus

## R2P under attack

States overwhelmingly – if cautiously – stood by the ‘responsibility to protect’ (R2P) principle after a fractious General Assembly (GA) debate in July 2009 on the Secretary-General’s report on implementing R2P. The fledgling humanitarian concept was initially endorsed by the largest-ever gathering of world leaders at the 2005 World Summit, but has been frequently under attack since then.

Over-enthusiasts have risked harming the principle through dilution and extension, seeking to apply it to everything from natural disasters to poverty. Developing-country critics say this is an ‘excuse’ for Western interventionism.

During the debate, former GA president Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, whose

presidency was filled with controversy, argued that the principle would be applied selectively. He claimed that R2P would only be “applied in cases where public opinion in the countries of the five permanent members of the Security Council supports intervention, as in Darfur, and not where it is opposed, as in Gaza”.

Not all developing-country representatives share this view. African countries were among R2P’s strongest advocates in 2005. And the African Union (AU) foreshadowed R2P in its Constitutive Act, which contained a concept of ‘non-indifference’ and authorised AU action to halt the gravest crimes.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his special adviser Professor Ed Luck took pains during the GA debate to explain that R2P comprises a raft of

measures, with military action being only a last resort. Their report, neatly summed up by Chilean Ambassador to the UN Heraldo Muñoz as ‘three pillars, four crimes’, outlines the sliding scale of R2P while clearly limiting its applicability. It stresses the primacy of state responsibility, international assistance, and a timely and decisive response if these first two pillars fail to protect a population from four specific crimes: genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

In response to critics such as d’Escoto Brockmann, Ban urged member states to “resist those who try to...turn our common effort to curb the worst atrocities in human history into a struggle over ideology, geography or economics” and to deliver on this “historic pledge to the peoples of the world”. ■

## Fighting H1N1 in developing countries

On 11 June, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the world was facing an influenza pandemic for the first time in 41 years. The implications of H1N1 (known colloquially as ‘swine flu’), however, are likely to vary greatly between rich and poor countries.

WHO’s ‘pandemic’ classification rests on geography rather than severity. H1N1 officially became a pandemic once sustained outbreaks in two continents had been reported. Although other recent health scares like H5N1 (avian influenza) had higher mortality rates – H5N1 stands at 60% compared to H1N1’s 1% – H1N1 differs crucially in that it is extremely difficult to contain. Past flu viruses have taken at least six months to spread as widely as H1N1 did in six weeks, and H1N1 cases have been reported in all corners of the world (with the exception of Antarctica).

In comparatively well-off countries, H1N1 has behaved to date like a ‘moderate’ virus according to WHO. This means that most people affected experience only mild symptoms and don’t require medical care. There remains a danger that the virus



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>> may mutate in the autumn. (In August, WHO was notified of a handful of cases where the virus appeared to have developed a resistance to oseltamivir phosphate, the main ingredient of anti-viral drugs like Tamiflu.) WHO has thus recommended that countries like the UK continue to monitor closely any unusual fatality clusters, and that those who are more at risk (e.g. pregnant women or people with heart disease) are especially vigilant.

In the developing world the situation is already potentially more serious. Developing countries have larger pools of 'vulnerable' people, such as HIV/AIDS-sufferers and the malnourished. WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan has warned that "although the pandemic appears to have moderate severity in comparatively well-off countries, it is prudent to anticipate a bleaker picture as the virus spreads to areas with limited resources, poor health care, and a high prevalence of underlying medical problems". She also pointed out that 90% of global vaccine stockpiles are in Europe and North America, saying that

"the lion's share of these limited supplies will go to wealthy countries".

Rich countries have already ordered nearly one billion vaccine doses – the upper limit of current production capacity according to conservative estimates. Most affluent countries – including the UK – have ordered more than the cur-

(GSK) for donations of 100 million and 50 million doses respectively to the least developed countries. WHO is also working with developing countries to raise funds to purchase vaccines, and to provide them with the licensing, financing and technical expertise needed to develop H1N1 vaccines domestically.

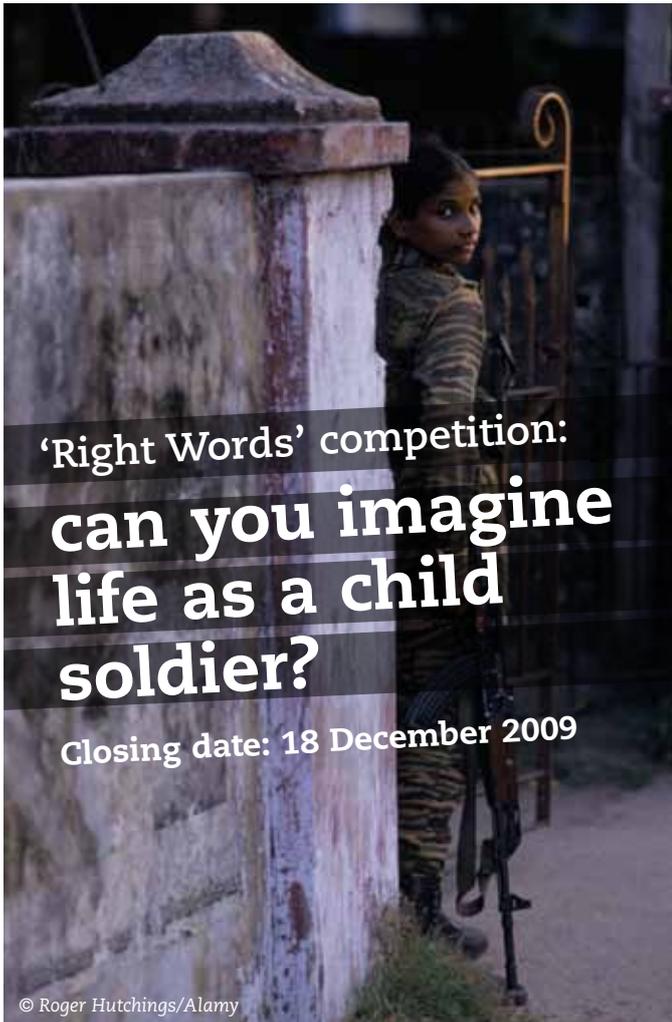
**90% of global vaccine stockpiles are in Europe and North America, "the lion's share of these limited supplies will go to wealthy countries"**

rent WHO-recommended amount: 25% of the population. In order to ensure that people in developing countries also have access to vaccines, WHO is working with vaccine manufacturers and governments on a number of initiatives.

The global health body has called on pharmaceutical companies to reserve a portion of the vaccines produced for its use – at a reduced price. It has so far obtained pledges from France's Sanofi-Aventis and Britain's GlaxoSmithKline

Lastly, WHO has urged rich-country governments to donate any excess doses – Canada, for example, has confirmed that it is in talks with GSK about options for returning part of its 50 million order.

These efforts will go some way towards improving developing-country access to H1N1 vaccines. However, WHO's Dr Keiji Fukuda said the Organization is "continually hoping that more companies will step up and agreed to donate more of the vaccine". ■



'Right Words' competition:  
**can you imagine  
life as a child  
soldier?**

Closing date: 18 December 2009

© Roger Hutchings/Alamy

The Human Rights Watch London Network, a partner of UNA-UK's Young Professionals Network, has launched '**Right Words**', a writing competition to help young people reflect on the phenomenon of child soldiers.

Entrants are invited to submit a poem, a story, or a 'point of view' essay. Entries will be judged by a distinguished panel of writers, journalists and human rights experts.

The competition is open to Key Stage 4 pupils (or equivalents in non-maintained schools) in England and Wales, and Secondary 3 & 4 pupils in Scotland, corresponding roughly to ages 14-16.

Visit [www.rightwords.org.uk](http://www.rightwords.org.uk) for more information on child soldiers and to enter the competition.

You can also learn more about child soldiers by accessing UNA-UK's human rights teaching pack at [www.una.org.uk/learnabouthumanrights](http://www.una.org.uk/learnabouthumanrights)

# Essay



## UN peacekeeping: crisis and opportunity



Bruce Jones

### UN peace operations face an

extended and dangerous period of strategic uncertainty. A series of setbacks has coincided with military overstretch and the financial crisis, raising the risk that UN peacekeeping may contract, despite high demand.

Much would be lost if it did. UN peacekeeping has proved to be a versatile tool for deterring or reversing inter-state conflict, ending civil wars, mitigating humanitarian crises, and extending state authority in areas where state capacity is weak or contested. Mediation and peacekeeping have contributed to an 80% decline in major wars since the end of the Cold War. Not all operations succeed, or succeed in full. But to meet future challenges, peacekeeping requires continued political, military and financial commitment.

**'Peacekeepers have been sent to larger, tougher settings. They have also been staying longer, as a substitute for post-conflict recovery mechanisms'**

To generate that commitment, we must distinguish between the symptoms and causes of the current crisis of confidence in peacekeeping. Symptoms include long delays in deploying troops, reversals on the ground, personnel overstretch at headquarters, mounting financial pressures, and diffuse attention in the Security Council. The causes are two-fold. First, operationally, peacekeepers have been sent to larger, tougher settings, straining management and command systems. They have also been staying longer, as a substitute for post-conflict recovery mechanisms not yet well adapted to purpose. Second, politically, peacekeepers are deployed where peace processes have collapsed, or where there is no real consent from the state. And all this against a backdrop of divisions at the UN stemming from the Iraq intervention debates.

The good news is that a broad majority of UN member states still see the importance of making peacekeeping work, and work better. Moreover, the major and rising powers have renewed interests in



A member of the Jordanian contingent of the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti distributes food to the children in Port au Prince, during a civilian/military exercise (10 October 2008). © UN Photo/Marco Dormino

>> peacekeeping – including China, which has expanded its contributions, and the US, where the Obama administration has signalled that effective peacekeeping is a priority in its multilateral policy. Indeed, in the administration's approach to major power relations, UN peacekeeping also has a window of significant opportunity.

Broad support for UN peacekeeping is important because an assessment of future conflict trends suggests rising not falling demand, and increased not decreased complexity. New operations will likely face opposition from hardened and sophisticated 'spoilers', sometimes with international backers, and be called upon to play a primary or supporting role in extending the authority of weak or contested governments. Capacity constraints on regional organisations and political limits on NATO ensure that much of the upcoming demand will fall to the UN.

To meet these challenges, UN peacekeeping will need a new coalition of support. A revitalised coalition that crosses institutional boundaries at the UN could sustain effective and efficient peacekeeping if organised around four key provisions:

- **pro-active consideration by the UN Secretariat of the alternatives to peacekeeping.** The decision to deploy a UN peacekeeping operation should be preceded by careful discussion of strategic options and rigorous analysis of alternatives. These include: mediation missions (Middle East); mediation and coordination missions (Afghanistan); civilian observers (Nepal); civilian observers with military protection (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Kosovo); military observers (Israel-Syria); police, training and rule of law missions (Balkans); logistical support to and oversight of national police capabilities (Chad); and preventive deployments (Macedonia).
- **a more consistent approach to partnering with other organisations (NATO, EU, AU, OSCE, CIS).** Lessons from past partnership operations suggest that these work best when there is a common political framework, a sharing of personnel, and joint planning mechanisms. Partnerships with the EU and the AU look set to deepen, which will necessitate greater predictability of deployments, and of financing in the case of the AU.
- **a renewed focus on laying the groundwork for exit.** This will require



Members of the Bangladeshi battalion of the UN Mission in Liberia cross a make-shift bridge during a search patrol to find and destroy a marijuana plantation (6 October 2008). © UN Photo/Christopher Herwig.

## 'The good news is that a broad majority of UN member states still see the importance of making peacekeeping work, and work better'

the main development agencies and funders to re-double efforts to establish effective, well-coordinated tools for rapid engagement in the political/development elements of post-conflict recovery.

- **and – above all – an emphasis by the Security Council on matching political strategy and resources to mandates.** This was a central lesson of the Brahimi Report ('Report to the Panel on UN Peacekeeping Operations 2000'), largely abided by from 2000 to 2005 but neglected of late – with the consequence of rising tensions between the Security Council, troop contributors, and the Secretariat.

A revitalised coalition of this sort will be particularly important when the Security Council is contemplating peacekeepers for missions where one actor on the ground implacably opposes negotiated settlements.

Opposition from non-state actors does not intrinsically transcend the limits of peacekeeping. International support to a recognised, viable state is another form of 'peace to keep', and one that the UN has supported through 'extension of state authority' operations. These missions are hard, however; and in each case where the UN has pursued this as its baseline stance,

its forces have been either led or supported by states with advanced military capabilities. (Opposition from the state is a different challenge altogether, which arguably does transcend the limits of UN peacekeeping – witness the strategic muddle that constitutes UN engagement in Sudan.)

If UN peace operations are to fulfil their mandates effectively on the ground, they must be managed efficiently as enablers of member states forces. This means the ability to protect staff, deploy more rapidly, and sustain a strong sense of member-state engagement with missions.

More rapid, more flexible operations will also require reforms to UN command and control mechanisms; and greater member-state engagement in monitoring

and sustaining missions, either through 'Friends' groups; high-level political conferences; or formalised operational advice.

Investments in such reforms will enable the UN to operationalise its main strategic advantage: the fact that it is the only organisation through which the forces of all the major powers, including rising and regional powers, can jointly participate in providing stability. Western-based mechanisms like NATO and the EU are already implementing certain Security Council mandates, and regional organisations like the AU offer critical advantages in their respective areas. Nevertheless, only the UN offers a platform for Western and rising powers to join in mounting politically diverse but operationally capable missions – but only if the P5 and other major powers follow the new American lead and invest in UN peacekeeping. ■

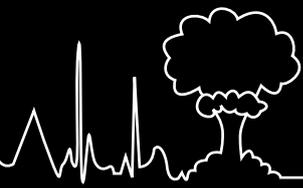
*Bruce Jones is Director of New York University's Center on International Cooperation and Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. This essay is derived from 'Building on Brahimi' by Jones, Gowan and Sherman, a report submitted to the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations in April 2009. The report is available from [www.cic.nyu.edu](http://www.cic.nyu.edu)*



towardszero

**CHARTING A PATH TO A WORLD  
WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

[www.una.org.uk/towardszero](http://www.una.org.uk/towardszero)



# UNA-UK: Towards Zero



## Charting a path to a world without nuclear weapons

UNA-UK has been awarded a major five-year 'Special Peace Grant' (administered by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust) to work on furthering multilateral nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. With this grant and co-funding from the UNA Trust and its John Bright Fund, we have launched 'Towards Zero', which builds on UNA-UK's long tradition of disarmament campaigning. We will be regularly reporting on this campaign through our website, newsletters and a new dedicated section in *New World*.

### A vision revived

The growing consensus on the urgency of multilateral nuclear disarmament has breathed new life into efforts to secure a world free from nuclear weapons, a vision put forward by the UN General Assembly in its first-ever resolution. A set of new, forceful champions has driven this consensus. In the US, four leading statesmen from across the political spectrum – Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, William Perry and Sam Nunn – are spearheading the Nuclear Security Project, an initiative calling for a fresh drive towards multilateral nuclear disarmament. A cross-party group of British Parliamentarians has followed suit, urging the UK to support the steps outlined by their US counterparts. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has launched his 'five-point plan' containing 'practical and realistic' steps towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. And to raise global awareness of this goal, 100 world leaders from across the political and cultural spectrum have launched the 'Global Zero' campaign.

### Six steps towards zero

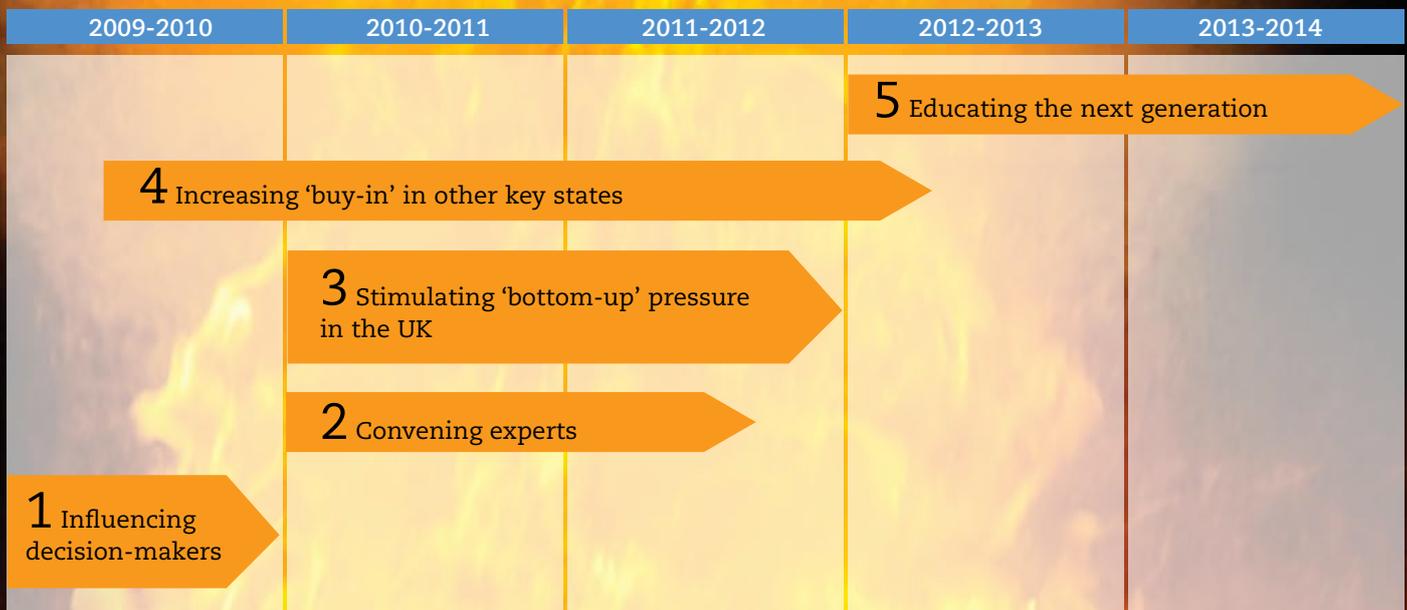
All these initiatives recommend a similar set of practicable steps which would, incrementally, move the world closer towards 'nuclear zero'. These steps can be summarised as:

- Substantially reducing the nuclear arsenals of all nuclear-weapon states
- Easing Cold War nuclear postures and agreeing negative security assurances
- Prohibiting nuclear-weapons testing through universal ratification and entry into force of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty
- Agreeing a treaty to end verifiably the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons
- Creating a mechanism that guarantees access to nuclear fuel for civil purposes and avoids the further proliferation of uranium enrichment and reprocessing technology
- Strengthening mechanisms and increasing resources for verifying compliance with nuclear commitments

### An unprecedented opportunity

This approach has now been endorsed by four of the five official nuclear states as recognised by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as well as a growing number of other countries. In May, states agreed an ambitious agenda for next year's vital NPT review meeting and the Conference on Disarmament broke its 13-year deadlock by agreeing to begin negotiations on a fissile material treaty. In July, the US and Russia agreed to cut their deployed nuclear arsenals by a third. At the time of writing, the UK government appears willing to consider delaying – at least until after May 2010 – pushing ahead with renewing its nuclear deterrent. Together, these developments have presented an unprecedented opportunity for multilateral action on disarmament and non-proliferation. >>

## Building on the momentum



>> UNA-UK is striving to ensure that this opportunity is taken. This is our 'five-year plan' for a safer world:

**1** **Influencing decision-makers:** we aim to embed support across Whitehall for the 'six steps towards zero', and support the formulation and government adoption of viable strategies to advance them. In addition to our ongoing parliamentary advocacy, we will host a major expert conference with RUSI and BASIC this year to further this aim.

**2** **2. Convening experts:** through our presence at the NPT Preparatory Committee meeting and the forthcoming all-important Review Conference, we will strive to ensure that any positive momentum generated is built upon. We will harness the expertise of the leading nuclear-weapons specialists on our Advisory Panel to generate a set of key recommendations for follow-up and target these at decision-makers.

**3** **Stimulating 'bottom-up' pressure in the UK:** without popular pressure, the need for action on this issue will drop down governments' agendas. We will be encouraging our members to lobby their MPs, disseminate our 'Towards Zero' campaign messages and take action at a local level.

**4** **Increasing 'buy-in' in other key states:** as a member of the World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA), UNA-UK enjoys formal partnerships with UNAs in almost 100 countries. Focusing particularly on the UNAs of declared, undeclared and aspirant nuclear-weapon states, we will use these links to build support for the actions required to achieve multilateral agreement. We recently secured a resolution on nuclear issues at the 2009 WFUNA Plenary Assembly in Seoul (see page 20). In August 2009, our youth wing was commended in WFUNA's 'students for a nuclear-free world' competition (see page 42). We will build on these initiatives next year by sharing information and coordinating campaigning strategy in the run-up to and following the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

**5** **Educating the next generation:** we will work with our Youth Council and university groups to re-establish nuclear disarmament as a central issue for young people. We will also develop teaching materials and Model UN resources on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. ■



**GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS**

**January:** The four US statesmen – Shultz, Perry, Kissinger and Nunn – launch the Nuclear Security Project in a Wall Street Journal article.

**October:** US announces toughest-ever sanctions against Iran following the IAEA's estimate that Iran could develop a nuclear weapon in three to eight years.

**October:** Conference marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reagan/Gorbachev Reykjavik summit kickstarts the 'four statesmen' initiative.

**July:** Australia and Japan establish the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNNPD), which aims to reinvigorate the global debate on nuclear disarmament.

**December:** 100 leaders from around the world launch 'Global Zero', a plan for the phased, verified elimination of nuclear weapons.

**April:** US President Obama outlines his vision of a world free from nuclear weapons in a major speech in Prague.

2006

2007

2008

**December:** UNA-UK, UNA Wales and DDMI hold a conference on the global context and implications for Trident, the UK's nuclear deterrent.

**January:** UNA Edinburgh holds major one-day NPT conference in the Scottish Parliament.

**September:** In the wake of stalled efforts to address the problems arising from Iran's nuclear programme, UNA-UK writes to the Foreign Secretary urging more dialogue between Iran and main Security Council powers on a whole range of security concerns (17 Sept).

**April:** The cover story for UNA-UK's magazine is an essay by Baroness Shirley Williams on the new push to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

**July:** In a joint initiative with BASIC, UNA-UK writes to all MPs asking them to back a cross-party group of UK parliamentarians supporting a nuclear-free world.

**October:** Andreas Persbo of VERTIC gives a presentation on efforts to reinvigorate multilateral nuclear disarmament at the launch of UNA-UK's 'Lobby for the UN'.

**April:** The Chair of the third session of the NPT Preparatory Committee, Ambassador Chidyausiku, and UNA-UK's Chair Lord Hannay deliver speeches on the prospects for success at the NPT review conference, at a meeting organised by UNA Edinburgh.

**April:** UNA-UK is awarded a major five-year grant for work on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

**June:** UNA-UK secures messages of support to our 2009 Annual Conference from the UN Secretary-General and leaders of the UK's three main political parties. All messages specifically express commitment to the success of global disarmament initiatives.

Conference delegates agree four resolutions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues, including one entitled 'Towards a world without nuclear weapons' to be proposed at the WFUNA Plenary Assembly, an umbrella organisation of nearly 100 UNAs worldwide.

**June:** UNA-UK participates in an NGO Peace & Security Liaison Group roundtable discussion on preparing the ground for the NPT Review Conference in 2010.

**UNA-UK ACTION**

**May:** North Korea announces that it has successfully carried out a nuclear test, provoking international condemnation.

**May:** The NPT Preparatory Committee meeting agrees an agenda and procedural arrangements, paving the way for the NPT Review Conference.

**May:** The UN Conference on Disarmament breaks 13-year deadlock and agrees to negotiate a fissile material treaty.

**July:** The US and Russia agree to reduce their deployed nuclear arsenals by around a third to 1,500-1,675 each.

**July:** On 15 July, 13 years after it opened for signature, the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty) entered into force following its ratification by Burundi.

**September:** The UK is to host a meeting of the P5 on nuclear issues, ahead of the UN Security Council meeting on this topic.

**August:** The IAEA Board of Governors recommends a budget increase of almost €25 million. The increase needs to be approved by the 150 IAEA member states at the agency's General Conference in September 2009.

**March:** The US government will host major nuclear summit.

**May:** The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference will be held on 3-28 May.

2009

2010

**June:** The APPG on Global Security & Non-proliferation, which is co-chaired by UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay, holds meetings on Russian and US nuclear policy, and on how the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear programme can be managed.

**June:** A Foreign Affairs Committee report, 'Global Security: Non-proliferation', containing UNA-UK evidence is published. The report expresses concern over the likely effect of Trident replacement on UK non-proliferation policies and recommends that the government does not push ahead with its plans until Parliament has debated the issue.

**July:** UNA-UK lobbies the UK government to support an IAEA budget increase (see page 26).

**August:** UNA-UK secures a WFUNA resolution on nuclear issues and lays the groundwork for future engagement on this issue with other UNAs (see page 20). UNA-UK's youth wing is commended in WFUNA's 'students for a nuclear-free world' campaign competition.

**August:** UNA-UK's Executive Director visits Beijing to hold meetings with UNA China and leading academics and military personnel with expertise on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. A programme of future co-operation between UNA-UK and UNA China on this issue is agreed.

**September:** UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay participates in a high-level cross-party visit of UK Parliamentarians to Washington to discuss disarmament and non-proliferation issues with key US administration officials and Senators.

**October:** Launch of UNA-UK's 2009-10 'Lobby for the UN'. Members will be encouraged to lobby their MPs on nuclear issues over the next parliamentary year.

**December:** UNA-UK, RUSI and BASIC to hold major expert conference.

**January/February:** UNA-UK is planning to host a UK launch of the ICNNDP's preliminary findings.

# LOBBY YOUR MP ON NUCLEAR ISSUES

## Lobby for the UN 2009-10: nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation resources

The launch event for our annual campaign to promote dialogue between voters and MPs on UN issues will be held on 27 October 2009 (see page 37). This year, we are asking members to lobby their MPs on climate change and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Here are some resources and ideas on the latter issue. For resources on climate change, see page 22.

### Take action by:

- ▶ visiting the Nuclear Security Project's website – [www.nuclearsecurityproject.org](http://www.nuclearsecurityproject.org). You can learn more about nuclear issues by completing their interactive online tutorials
- ▶ lobbying your MP to ask the UK government why there is no mention of 'Trident' in its comprehensive 'Road to 2010' report
- ▶ watching and screening 'Last Best Chance', a film by the Nuclear Threat Initiative that can be ordered for free via [www.lastbestchance.org](http://www.lastbestchance.org)
- ▶ asking your local mayor to join Mayors For Peace, a group founded by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that aims to prevent other cities from suffering a nuclear attack
- ▶ supporting the UN's 'WMD – We Must Disarm' campaign. Add your message in support of nuclear disarmament at: [www.twitter.com/wemustdisarm](http://www.twitter.com/wemustdisarm)
- ▶ asking your MEP what he or she is doing to make nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament a top priority for the EU, which contains two of the five official nuclear-weapon states
- ▶ signing the Global Zero petition ([www.globalzero.org](http://www.globalzero.org)) in support of multilateral disarmament and encouraging others to do the same





## World Federation of UN Associations

Every three years, the World Federation of UNAs (WFUNA) invites its member UNAs to attend a Plenary Assembly. These meetings adopt policy resolutions and give UNAs from around the world a chance to meet and learn from each other. In August, UNA-UK sent a delegation to WFUNA's 39th Plenary Assembly, which took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

The Plenary saw the appointment of a new WFUNA Secretary-General (see interview with Bonian Golmohammadi on page 21) and a new President (Ambassador Park Soo-gil of South Korea) to succeed Dr Hans Blix, whose term of office expired at the end of the Plenary meeting.

UNA-UK sent four representatives to Seoul. The delegation was led by UNA-UK Executive Director, Sam Daws. He was accompanied by Dr Gari Donn of Edinburgh UNA, who represented UNA-UK in the Plenary Policy Commission; Tim Jarman of UNA-UK's Young Professionals Network; and Nick Boucher, President of UNA-UK's youth wing, UNYSA. Nick and Tim both participated in the parallel WFUNA Youth Forum.

UNA-UK's delegation successfully worked to secure the support of WFUNA and other individual UNAs for our 'Towards Zero' campaign on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation:

- Dr Donn led a workshop session on peace and security that focused on nuclear issues (you can read the full text of her speech by visiting [www.una.org.uk/MembersForum](http://www.una.org.uk/MembersForum))
- UNA-UK co-sponsored a resolution on this topic with UNA-USA and UNA Ireland that was adopted by WFUNA (see page 20).
- Nick Boucher had great success in building support among other UNA youth associations for our youth campaign to 'Stop the Spread' of nuclear weapons (see page 42).
- UNYSA entered WFUNA's 'students for a nuclear-free world' competition and was awarded a certificate of merit by Dr Hans Blix, the outgoing WFUNA President and former head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The strength and professionalism of young people in UNAs around the world stood out during the Plenary. Tim Jarman, who helped to establish WFUNA's Global Young Professionals, made a presentation on UNA-UK's Young Professionals Network, along with his counterparts in the US and the Netherlands (see page 39). WFUNA Youth's Dania Röphe (UNYA Germany) and Maya V. Márquez R. (UNYA Guatemala) gave an excellent overview to the Plenary explaining how their capacity-building workshops – held in Oxford, Barcelona and Berlin with the financial assistance of UNA Spain and UNA-UK – had strengthened UNA youth associations.

The Plenary meeting also included sessions on governance and finance, which UNA-UK's Executive Director attended to continue to push for much-needed improvements to WFUNA's procedures and practice in these areas.

There is now optimism that with the arrival of Bonian Golmohammadi as Secretary-General, we will see a rejuvenation of WFUNA. UNA-UK will be placing a particular focus in the coming years on how it can help support the new WFUNA Secretariat, and the Steering Committee of WFUNA Youth, to begin to transform the World Federation. ■

- The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) was founded in 1946.
- WFUNA was established to be a 'peoples' movement for the UN'. It connects a global network of United Nations Associations in support of the work and ideals of the UN.
- At present, WFUNA has member UNAs in nearly 100 countries.
- UNA-UK is a founding member of WFUNA.
- WFUNA has a student wing and is developing its Global Young Professionals network.

## UNA-UK and UNA China look to co-operate on nuclear issues

UNA-UK's Executive Director, Sam Daws, visited Beijing in August 2009 after the WFUNA Plenary Assembly. He held meetings with the leadership of UNA China, as well as top academics and military personnel with expertise in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and UN reform. Discussions covered a broad canvas, from the confidence-building measures needed for ratification of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty to the recent statement by Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on the path to a nuclear-weapons-free world. Plans were agreed for future UNA China – UNA-UK co-operation as part of UNA-UK's 'Towards Zero' project.



UNA-UK Executive Director, Sam Daws, in Beijing with (from left to right): Professor Li Dongyan of the Department of International Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Wang Zhuo of the Department of Diplomacy at Renmin University of China; Ambassador Chen Jian, former UN Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of China (he became the President of UNA China in 2007); Dr Chen Xulong, Deputy Director of the Department for International Strategic Studies of the China Institute of International Affairs; Zhang Yi, Programme Manager of UNA China; Colonel Teng Jiangun, Deputy Secretary General of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association; Pang Sen, Director-General of UNA China and former Deputy Director of the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament, in the Chinese Foreign Ministry. © Zhang Yi/UNA China 2009

## WFUNA adopts UNA-UK resolution

The World Federation of UNAs adopted a resolution on non-proliferation and disarmament that UNA-UK had co-sponsored with UNA-USA and UNA Ireland. The text – which emerged from UNA-UK's 2009 Annual Conference as well as a conference arranged by UNA Edinburgh in April 2009 – secured WFUNA support to lobby internationally for:

- Genuine steps toward disarmament by nuclear-weapons states
- Ratification of the CTBT by all states
- All states to commit to 'no first use' of nuclear weapons
- Universal adoption of the IAEA Additional Protocol
- Urgent conclusion of a treaty to end the production of fissile material
- The establishment of an international nuclear fuel bank
- Prevention of WMD technology falling into the hands of non-state actors
- Support for the goal of a nuclear-weapons-free world

## Interview with Bonian Golmohammadi, new WFUNA Secretary-General

### What does the Secretary-General of WFUNA do?

According to WFUNA's constitution, the Secretary-General is the Chief Executive Officer of the World Federation. He or she organises the work of the Secretariat in carrying out activities in support of WFUNA's mandate – to be a global peoples' movement for the United Nations – and the various resolutions adopted by member UNAs at Plenary Assemblies. I report to our Executive Committee and to the Plenary.

### You served for nearly nine years as the Secretary-General of UNA Sweden. What have you learned from that experience that you hope will be useful to your new role in WFUNA?

I was very happy to have led UNA Sweden and to have had the privilege of seeing the Association grow and strengthen its programmes. In 2001, we had 10 members of staff. Today, there are about 30 full-time staff members working on a diverse range of projects.

Many of my experiences at UNA Sweden are relevant to what WFUNA is – or could be – doing. During my time at the Swedish Association, I learned a great deal about programme development, fundraising and advocacy work. I also started a number of bilateral development projects with other UNAs, for example, working with UNA-Democratic Republic of the Congo in support of democratic elections.

### Tell us something about yourself, for instance, how you first became interested in international affairs.

I was born in Germany to Iranian parents, went to kindergarten in Austria, grew up in Sweden, and have lived in several other countries as well. So from an early age, it seemed natural for me to relate to, and have an interest in, different cultures, outlooks and environments. Both my parents consider themselves to be 'world citizens' and I remember discussing human rights and



global values at home as a child. As a result, I have been an active volunteer in local chapters of UNA Sweden and other NGOs since my teens.

## Many UNAs have noticed that their new members are primarily young people wanting to get involved in global issues, and have benefitted from their enthusiasm and fresh outlook

### You are taking over the reins of WFUNA at a time of great potential for the Federation. Where would you like to see WFUNA in five years time?

I hope that in five years time we will have a World Federation with a strong financial base and increased staff capacity that is actively working on multi-year programmes. Hopefully, we will have projects in each of the UN's three primary areas: peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development. I also hope that we will have been able to connect and mobilise UNAs through our programmes, so that they feel strengthened and linked in to a global organisation. Ways to engage with young people will also be a particular priority for me.

### What do you think are the key challenges facing the UN today?

Overcoming the tensions and mistrust between the global 'north' and 'south'.

How to deal with the fact that the MDGs probably won't be achieved globally. Moving ahead with UN Reform (including the elusive Security Council reform) and the new possibilities for disarmament and non-proliferation. Making the Human Rights Council work properly. And 'sealing the deal' (the right deal) on climate change.

### How can individual UNAs most effectively contribute to making WFUNA a success?

Firstly, of course, by keeping up the good work in their respective countries. I also hope that UNAs will get involved in the programmes that WFUNA will be launching shortly. Our new 'Global Citizen Campaign' includes various projects, and will hopefully present UNAs with a number of options for action. WFUNA can then also gradually become a platform for capacity building and multilateral projects between UNAs.

### What role can young people play in the World Federation?

Young people are already playing an important role in WFUNA. Many UNAs have noticed that their new members are primarily young people wanting to get involved in global issues, and have benefitted from their enthusiasm and fresh outlook. I believe our challenge is not only to develop programmes for, and together with, young people, but also to include them in our decision-making processes. New communication technologies offer some excellent possibilities to engage with many more young people at a low cost and in novel, interactive ways. ■

# the climate challenge



On 7-18 December 2009, the UN will convene governments in Copenhagen, Denmark, to tackle one of the greatest challenges facing the world: climate change. The main item on the agenda will be to hammer out a global climate deal to succeed the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the existing international framework that expires in 2012, and to create a green economy that will lead to long-term prosperity.

Reaching a deal that is fair, balanced and effective will not only depend on complex political negotiations. Public pressure and support are also vital. During 2008-09, UNA-UK held a series of national conferences, generously funded by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the UNA Trust, to generate a critical mass of support among the British public in the run-up to the Copenhagen conference.

UNA-UK's meetings set out to consider three core questions in climate policy:

- 1) What is the role of the UN in finding solutions to climate change and building resilience to its impacts?
- 2) Is the UK government doing enough to build a low-carbon economy?
- 3) What can individuals do to contribute to solutions?

In asking these questions, we had five key aims:

- build support among the public and business community for immediate action by the UK government to promote the shift to a low-carbon, high-growth economy;
- reconfigure awareness of climate change so that it is understood as not only an environmental problem but also a threat to security, health and prosperity;
- make the case that climate change needs to be treated as both a significant economic threat and an enormous economic opportunity for small and medium businesses;
- consider ways in which development strategies should be calibrated to encourage low-carbon, high-growth outcomes in developing countries; and
- highlight the changes needed to strengthen international institutional capacity for addressing climate change.

'The Road to Copenhagen' – the conference series outcome report – and five briefing papers that UNA-UK produced for the events, are all available at [www.una.org.uk/climate](http://www.una.org.uk/climate).

## LOBBY YOUR MP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The launch event for our annual campaign to promote dialogue between voters and MPs on UN issues will be held on 27 October 2009 (see page 37). With the Copenhagen conference fast approaching, we are asking members to lobby their MPs on climate change. Here are some ideas:

- ▶ Ask your MP to encourage his or her local council, all government departments and Parliament to sign up to the 10:10 initiative ([www.1010uk.org](http://www.1010uk.org)), which asks individuals and organisations to pledge to reduce their carbon footprint by 10% in 2010.
- ▶ Ask your MP what he or she is doing to ensure that local and regional strategies have targets to reduce emissions in line with the Climate Change Act.
- ▶ Ask your MP to sign the UN's Seal the Deal climate change petition. The petition calls for a new global climate deal that is fair, balanced and effective. It will be presented to world leaders at Copenhagen.

Last year, we encouraged members to lobby their MPs on strengthening the UK Climate Change Bill to include emissions reduction targets from aviation and shipping. The Climate Change Act, which was passed on 26 November 2008, requires the government to include international aviation and shipping emissions in the Act, or explain to Parliament by 31 December 2012 why it has not done so.



## UNA-UK's four climate change events

**Held in Birmingham, Belfast, London and Edinburgh, each event had a different aim, audience and impact.**

### Inspiring local action

**BIRMINGHAM, 7 JUNE 2008**

With a strong showing of local government, community and faith leaders, the emphasis was on showcasing climate projects and schemes in Birmingham. Participants were encouraged to share experiences, including the transferability of successful local initiatives, in order to equip them with ideas to 'take home'.

### Multiplying the message

**BELFAST, 6 NOVEMBER 2008**

In Belfast, high-level NGO and local government delegates heard from keynote speaker Dr Bernard Bulkin, UK Sustainable Development Commissioner, and discussed Northern Ireland's climate policies with representatives of WWF Northern Ireland, Belfast City Council, NI's Friends of the Earth and NI Environment Link. Creating 'multipliers' of our climate call to action was an aim for all our meetings. But the Belfast conference, with over 100 groups representing thousands across Northern Ireland, had a unique impact in this area.

### Debating the international context

**LONDON, 30 APRIL 2009**

Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, was one of the keynote speakers

Ziana Kotadia, Birmingham event



at UNA London & South-East Region's conference, held at the International Maritime Organization. He spoke on the key factors that will determine the success of Copenhagen (see page 8). In his presentation, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay outlined the diplomatic challenge in securing agreement on these issues.

### Equipping individuals

**EDINBURGH, 6 JUNE 2009**

The idea of holding a series of conferences on climate change was initially proposed by members at UNA-UK's annual conference in 2006. It was thus fitting that the final 'Climate Challenge' event was part of our 2009 Annual Conference (see page 32). Trewin Restorick, founder and director of Global Action Plan, ran workshops to educate and equip our local, student and young professional members to be effective climate advocates, individually and collectively. Delegates also debated a raft of climate-related motions – ranging from climate refugees to new technologies such as solar power supergrids – to decide which would become part of UNA-UK's official policy. And the new climate film, 'The Age of Stupid', was screened (see page 32).

**In all, more than 600 people attended the events, with many more reached via web and media coverage. ■**

Dr Bernard Bulkin, Belfast event



Hilary Sloan, Belfast event



Yvo de Boer, London event



Trewin Restorick, Edinburgh event



10:10 is a UK-wide initiative calling on individuals and organisations to pledge to reduce their carbon footprint by 10% in 2010. Thousands have already made this pledge: including the entire Cabinet and opposition front bench, writer Ian McEwan, artist Anthony Gormley, chef Delia Smith, actor Colin Firth and UNA-UK staff members! Organisations such as Royal Mail, the Tate Modern, Tottenham Hotspur Football Club and St Thomas' Hospital have also signed up. UNA-UK has too – have you? [www.1010uk.org](http://www.1010uk.org)

- ▶ A global climate deal that is definitive, equitable and effective
- ▶ Support for developing countries' adaptation efforts
- ▶ Protection for vulnerable countries and people
- ▶ Binding targets to cut emissions by 2020
- ▶ A green economy

The UN Copenhagen climate change conference is less than three months away.



# Do something.

Visit [www.una.org.uk/dosomething](http://www.una.org.uk/dosomething) to 'Seal the deal' on climate change.





Chinstrap penguins perch on top of an eroded blue iceberg near Candlemas Island. Icebergs are simply fragments of glaciers, and in October 2008, an iceberg half the size of Greater London 'calved' from the vast Pine Island Glacier (Pig). Over the past 20 years, Pig has been thinning at 40 times the previous stable rate.  
© Maria Stenzel/National Geographic/Getty Images.

# Westminster Wire



## **Sawers: 'the UK wants and needs the UN to succeed'**

UK Ambassador to the UN Sir John Sawers spoke on 'Building peace through the United Nations' at a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the UN on 13 July. This meeting was hosted by UNA-UK and attracted a high-level audience. Sir John leaves his post in November to head the UK's Secret Intelligence Service. He will be replaced by Sir Mark Lyall Grant, the current Foreign Office political director.

## **Budgeting for peace**

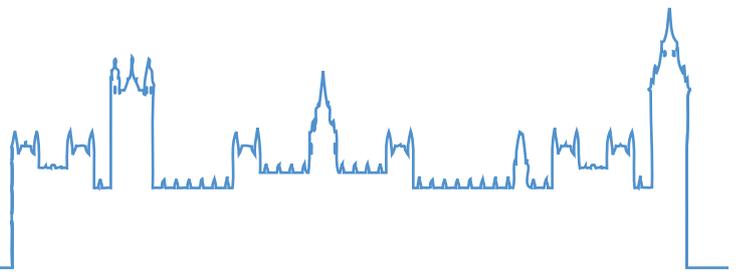
With many government departments facing budget cuts in the UK, finance for UN peacekeeping has been on UNA-UK's agenda. In a House of Lords debate in July, Lord Hannay questioned the government's decision to pool its assessed (obligatory) contributions and discretionary spending on UN peacekeeping. The move could result in less money being available for emerging or changing conflict situations. Lord Malloch-Brown, then Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, replied that the government was aware of this risk and that the FCO, DfID and the MoD have provided an additional £71 million for discretionary spending.

Lord Hannay also wrote to the FCO in July about the UK's funding for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The UK, together with a number of other European countries, was resisting any real-term increase in the budget of the UN's nuclear watchdog despite many years of zero real growth and the IAEA's expanded responsibilities such as safeguards for civil nuclear power generation. FCO Minister Ivan Lewis responded that while the UK did not believe there was a case to increase the IAEA budget at present, it plans to convene major donors to consider such funding. Lord Hannay has replied to the minister welcoming this proposed meeting. UNA-UK will continue to monitor developments closely.

## **Genocide loophole partially closed**

The UK plans to strengthen its laws relating to genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity by closing a loophole

*Sir John Sawers addresses the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the UN, 13 July 2009. © UNA-UK/JABpromotions.*



that prevents suspects found on UK soil from being prosecuted, extradited or deported. At present, suspects cannot be prosecuted if the crimes took place before 2001, or if they are not resident in this country. New legislation would make 1991 the 'start date', allowing prosecutions relating to the Rwandan genocide and the wars in the former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

UNA-UK made formal representations to the government on this issue, and supported a campaign by the Aegis Trust and REDRESS. Speaking in the House of Lords in July, Lord Hannay expressed hope that the new legislation would not apply only to those formally resident in the UK, but also to those who are 'present', saying 'otherwise, we will end up in the same situation that we are in now'.

Earlier this year, four suspected Rwandan genocidaires living in the UK won their High Court appeal against extradition. These men could now face trial in British courts, along with 'tens' of other suspected war criminals according to Justice Minister Jack Straw.

### One down, one to go

On 9 June, the UK ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Disability rights campaigners believe that the UK has made too many reservations to the treaty, notably on immigration and schooling, which Lord Hannay has described as 'excessively pernickety'. A key campaign issue for UNA-UK, we have urged the government to review

the reservations regularly and withdraw them as soon as possible.

The UK is also on track to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions in early 2010. UNA-UK played a prominent role in securing UK backing for the convention and has been calling on the government to make ratification a priority. The convention will enter into force once 30 states have ratified it. So far, 17 out of the 98 countries that have signed the treaty have done so.

### Beyond UNYSA

Aged 27, Conservative MP and former York UNYSA member Chloe Smith became the youngest Member of Parliament following her victory in the Norwich North by-election in July.



### Brussels diary

**When I moved from being** Britain's Ambassador to the European Union to the equivalent post at the UN in New York in September 1990, the two organisations might have been living on separate planets for all they knew or cared about each other. When they did come into contact with each other, the prevalent mood tended to be a combination of ignorance and mutual suspicion. The end of the Cold War and the subsequent slide towards a pretty disordered world – with many new threats and challenges which required global responses if they were to be managed or,

better still, resolved – soon put an end to that. And now, 20 years later, the EU and the UN are cooperating on a whole range of issues and have in fact become indispensable partners.

Nothing better demonstrated this new partnership than two meetings I attended this spring. In April, I was invited by UNA Spain to a conference in Barcelona which brought together ministers and officials from the two organisations – the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, the EU Commissioner for External Relations, the Spanish Foreign Minister and many others – for two days of discussions on how the two organisations could work together more closely and effectively. And then in May, I was invited, together with the European Parliament's rapporteur on relations with the UN, to join the UN Directors of the 27 EU member states to discuss ways of strengthening EU input to UN debates and activities in New York and worldwide.

Later this year, the Copenhagen conference on climate change – a



negotiating process which would not even have moved from square one without the leadership of the European Union – will reach the moment of decisions. Around the world, the EU is supporting the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. EU peacekeepers are helping to maintain the stability of regions under stress, from the Balkans to Africa. As the champion of effective multilateralism, the EU is providing the engine of UN reform and innovation.

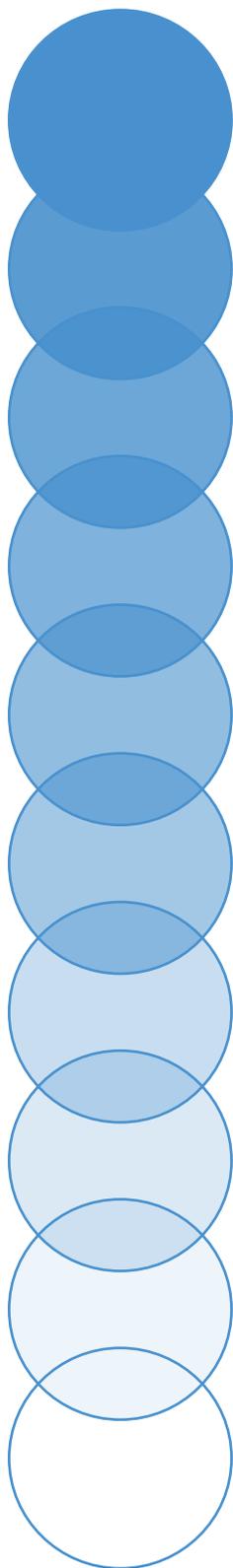
So I am delighted that, from now onwards, New World will be reporting regularly on the way this partnership is developing.

David Hannay  
Chair, UNA-UK

# TEN 10

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – agreed by world leaders in 2000 – are eight time-bound objectives which range from halving world poverty to ensuring environmental sustainability.

The 2009 MDG progress report stresses the importance of recognising the remarkable advances in achieving the goals as well as the challenges presented by the financial and food crises.



## 10 MDG successes

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- 1 Despite the economic downturn current projections suggest that overall poverty rates in the developing world will continue to fall in 2009.
- 2 Primary school education has now exceeded 90% in almost all regions (even in sub-Saharan Africa, the notable exception, enrolment increased by 16% between 2000 and 2007).
- 3 In two out of three countries, there is now gender parity in primary school classrooms.
- 4 Between 2000 and 2007, measles deaths dropped by 74%. During this time, immunisation coverage increased to 82%.
- 5 The world is ahead of schedule in meeting the 2015 drinking water target. But 884 million people still use water from unsafe sources.
- 6 The use of ozone depleting gases has been almost completely eliminated worldwide.
- 7 The proportion of parliamentary seats held by women continues to rise slowly. The most impressive gains were made in Latin America and the Caribbean: 22% of parliamentary seats in the region are now held by women.
- 8 The lives of the urban poor are improving in almost every region: 2005 saw the proportion of slum dwellers decrease to 36% from nearly a half in 1990.
- 9 Deaths of children under five have steadily declined, from 12.6 million in 1990 to 9 million today, despite population growth.
- 10 Official development assistance in 2008 increased to \$119.8 billion, the highest figure to date.

## 10 MDG challenges

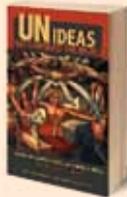
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- 1 In 2009, an estimated 55 million to 90 million more people will be living in extreme poverty (earning less than \$1.25 a day) than anticipated before the economic downturn.
- 2 The already scant progress on child nutrition is likely to be eroded by high food prices and the credit crunch: one in four children in developing regions is underweight. The decrease in prices in the second half of 2008 has so far failed to reverse this trend.
- 3 Close to two-thirds of employed women have 'vulnerable' jobs – part-time, seasonal, low or unpaid work, for example on family businesses such as farms.
- 4 Despite the overall decline in deaths, a child aged under five born in a developing country is 13 times more likely to die than its industrialised country counterpart.
- 5 MDG 5 on maternal mortality is the goal towards which the least progress has been made. In developing regions maternal mortality – which claims over half a million lives each year – decreased by just 1% between 1990 and 2005.
- 6 At the present rate, the 2015 sanitation target will be missed. An additional 1.4 billion people will require access to toilets, latrines and other forms of improved sanitation if the target is to be met.
- 7 In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, HIV prevalence has nearly doubled since 2001.
- 8 By 2007, an estimated 15 million children had lost one or both parents to AIDS.
- 9 According to the World Health Organization, nearly one million people die each year from malaria.
- 10 Every year forests equivalent in size to Bangladesh are cut down.

# Resources



## Books



### UN Ideas That Changed the World (final volume, UN Intellectual History Project Series)

Richard Jolly, Louis Emmerij, and Thomas G. Weiss  
Indiana University Press, November 2009

**Launch event: 6.30pm on 20 October 2009 at the London School of Economics (further details are available at: [www.lse.ac.uk/events](http://www.lse.ac.uk/events))**

'UN ideas have been among the world organisation's most important achievements. . . . This project will continue to inspire innovation and scholarship for many decades to come.'

From the foreword by Kofi A. Annan, UN Secretary-General, 1997–2006

'Jolly, Emmerij and Weiss argue that the UN's contribution will be indispensable in the future and they are right.'

Lord Malloch-Brown, former UK Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, and former UN Deputy Secretary-General.

Ideas and concepts have been a driving force in human progress, and they may be the most important legacy of the United Nations. This capstone volume draws upon findings of the other 16 books in the acclaimed 'United Nations Intellectual History Project Series'. The authors not only assess the development and implementation of UN ideas – such as human rights for all, development goals and human security – but also apply lessons.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Richard Jolly** is Honorary Professor and Research Associate of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. He was Chair of UNA-UK from 2001–5.

**Louis Emmerij** is Senior Research Fellow at The CUNY Graduate Center.

**Thomas G. Weiss** is Presidential Professor of Political Science at The CUNY Graduate Center and Director of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies.

[www.iupress.indiana.edu](http://www.iupress.indiana.edu)



### Democracy Goes to War: British Military Deployments under International Law

Nigel D. White  
OUP, June 2009

With the end of WW2 a new world order arose based on the prohibition of military force in international relations. Yet since 1945 British troops have been regularly deployed around the globe in many different capacities: as military observers, peace-keepers, peace-enforcers, state-builders and war-fighters. This book examines the decision to deploy troops from the perspective of international law.

[www.oup.co.uk](http://www.oup.co.uk)



### From Global Apartheid to Global Village: Africa and the United Nations

Adekeye Adebajo (ed)  
University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, August 2009

This book represents the first comprehensive attempt to examine the role of the UN in Africa over the last six decades. It examines 'global apartheid' – the inequitable power relations between the rich North and poor South – in three important areas: the politics within the UN's principal organs, peacekeeping and human rights, and socio-economic development, centred on the efforts of 16 UN specialised agencies, programmes and funds. This is a unique volume on the role of the world's most important multilateral body in its most impoverished continent.

[www.ukznpress.co.za](http://www.ukznpress.co.za)



### The House on the Sacred Lake

Margaret Anstee  
Book Guild Publishing  
October 2009

This book charts the personal journey of Dame Margaret Anstee, former UNDP resident representative in Bolivia and the first female UN Under-Secretary-General, and the difficulties she faced as she made a home for herself in Bolivia. It also examines Bolivia's own political journey during this time. Anstee's political activism and commitment to the social and political well-being of her adopted home are truly inspirational.

[www.bookguild.co.uk](http://www.bookguild.co.uk)



### Global Monitoring Checklist

Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS)

June 2009

GAPS has launched its Global Monitoring Checklist, which monitors implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Northern Ireland, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The research lays out up-to-date information on women, peace and security issues in these five countries, and provides practical information and recommendations to support national governments, the international community and civil society actors in their work.

[www.gaps-uk.org](http://www.gaps-uk.org)

Are you an academic? Practitioner? Student? Teacher?  
Find out more about the

# Academic Council on the United Nations Systems (ACUNS)

ACUNS is a professional association of educational and research institutions, individual scholars, teachers, and practitioners active in the work and study of multilateral relations, global governance, and international co-operation. Through our activities, we promote teaching, research, and dialogue on a range of issues related to the UN system.

With nearly 800 members in over 50 countries, our strength lies in promoting research and teaching on the UN system, and stimulating dialogue between and among academics and practitioners from across the globe.

We also offer an annual Dissertation Award as part of our mandate to foster innovation and excellence in research and writing about the UN.

To find out more, and to become a member of ACUNS, visit [www.acuns.org](http://www.acuns.org)



## Flag Day 2009-10

UNA branches and regions have been raising money through 'Flag Days', traditionally held on or around UN Day (24 October), since the earliest days of the Association. Over the years, members have raised many thousands of pounds for the UNA Trust and UNICEF UK. Flag Day collections are also great opportunities to recruit new members and spread the word about UNA-UK.

This year, UN Day falls on a Saturday – the perfect day for collecting in busy town centres. We have all the materials your branch or region needs to organise a successful Flag Day: tins, sashes, stickers, leaflets and more.

Collections must be co-ordinated or supervised by branch or regional officers. Guidance notes and an order form for Flag Day materials, which were sent to branches in August, are available from [www.una.org.uk/flagday](http://www.una.org.uk/flagday).

If you have any questions about holding collections, please contact UNA-UK's Membership Officer Rich Nelmes on 020 7766 3456 or [nelmes@una.org.uk](mailto:nelmes@una.org.uk).



Join us in raising money for the UNA Trust and UNICEF UK

## Flag Day Collections 2009-10

[www.una.org.uk/flagday](http://www.una.org.uk/flagday)



# Letters

send your letters to:

Natalie Samarasinghe, UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL  
e-mail: samarasinghe@una.org.uk



Dear Editor,

The last issue featured a reference to the recent US re-instatement of support for the UN's Population Fund, UNFPA (UN Miscellany, Other signs of change).

I understand that one of the key reasons for the Bush Administration's objections to that organisation's programmes was its support for the provision of abortion services in developing countries.

As a pro-life supporter, as well as UNA member for around 25 years, I regret President Obama's renewal of support for any organisation which actively undermines the human rights of the unborn child. Whilst your article was no doubt written on the basis that 'renewed engagement' with the UN is generally to be welcomed, it must be recognised that not all of the work of UN bodies is necessarily to be commended. In such situations, I can well understand the position of national governments that wish to withdraw funding.

UNA has much to say about human rights. Why does it have so little to say about the human rights of the unborn?

Colin Moss

Glossop

*Editor's note: the reference was to UNFPA's advocacy of family planning rather than abortion. UNFPA clearly states its policy towards abortion on its website: 'Guided by paragraph 8.25 of the Cairo Programme of Action, UNFPA does not support or promote abortion as a method of family planning. It accords the highest priority and support to voluntary family planning to prevent unwanted pregnancies so as to eliminate recourse to abortion'. Visit [www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org) for more information about its family planning work.*

Dear Editor,

One of the most essential foundations of a democracy is a free and open press. This year has been particularly bad for journalists, with high-profile assassinations and abductions in Russia, North Korea, the Philippines, Mexico and Sri Lanka. But a strong press is vital

everywhere in the world; recent events regarding MPs' expenses reinforce and highlight this need here in the UK.

We must do what we can to support the vital work of UNESCO and speak out against abuses of the press wherever they occur. If a government does not trust its people, why should we trust that government?

David J Thomas

Porthcawl

Dear Editor,

New World is always interesting and informative. The Spring 2009 edition is no exception, but I am somewhat puzzled by this reference: 'In Liberia an all-female peacekeeping force is contributing in very tangible ways to the continued recovery of that country' (Briefing: Violence Against Women).

The UN's gender statistics show that as of 30 April 2009, UNMIL's military strength was 9,863 male and 167 female, and the police strength was 1,026 male and 186 female. That gives a grand total for the mission's military and police personnel of 10,889 male and 353 female (3.14% female). The mission strength varies from month to month, but I have not found any statistics that demonstrate a recent significant variation in the gender balance.

In January 2007, an all-female Formed Police Unit from India joined UNMIL; the Unit included 103 women performing operational tasks while 22 men carried out logistic work. Maybe the publicity which accompanied the arrival of this all-female unit led to a misunderstanding of UNMIL's gender statistics?

It is interesting to see from the UN's gender statistics that several peacekeeping missions have a greater percentage of women than UNMIL, although it is encouraging to note that the UNMIL Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and one of the Deputy SRSGs are women. Nonetheless, the percentage of female military and police personnel and of senior female civilians at UN peacekeeping operations is disappointingly low.

I would not dispute that the UN peacekeeping force in Liberia is contrib-

uting in very tangible ways to the continued recovery of that country. On the other hand, I do think we need some clarification of the statement that it is an all-female peacekeeping force.

Susan Matthew

Exeter

*Editor's note: The nomenclature used in the New World article was taken directly from a quote by the police commander at the UN Mission in Liberia, Mohamed Alhassan, who described the Indian unit's arrival as 'very important...as this is the first all-female force in the history of the UN'. However, your letter provides valuable clarity and additional statistics that will undoubtedly be of interest to readers.*

Dear Editor,

Your airbrushed review of the FAO in the Spring 2009 issue (Profile, the FAO) ill serves your informed and committed readership. The situation within FAO, resulting from thirty years of neglect and poor management, became so critical that the 2005 FAO conference undertook an Independent External Evaluation (IEE) to review its operations and make recommendations for the future. IEE undertook the most comprehensive and detailed evaluation of any UN agency to date, and reported to the 2007 FAO conference. A special session of the FAO conference was then convened in 2008 to discuss the IEE recommendations. The report can be found on the FAO website: [www.fao.org/iee-follow-up-committee](http://www.fao.org/iee-follow-up-committee).

Decisions flowing from the IEE report, which recommended 'reform with growth' but which stressed that FAO needs to change – and that this need was urgent – coupled with ongoing follow-up activities of the FAO Council and Secretariat, provide some hope that the FAO will regain its former position in its areas of activity, but the jury is still out.

Michael Davies

Core-team member of IEE  
Oxfordshire

## Conference 09: Grassroots efforts for a stronger UN

**Returning to Scotland after nearly 30 years**, this year's UNA-UK Annual Conference tackled issues spanning the UN's agenda and heard from keynote speaker, Sir John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian affairs.

Speaking in the prestigious setting of the Scottish Parliament, Sir John outlined the challenges facing the UN in its role as the world's humanitarian coordinator, in particular in reconciling the tensions between national sovereignty and international responsibilities (see page 33). He gave examples of natural and man-made disasters, and drew attention to the humanitarian consequences of climate change.

Climate change (see page 23) and nuclear non-proliferation (see page 13) were major themes of the conference. But delegates also debated policy motions on human rights, development, conflict prevention and UN reform. The message was clear: despite global challenges such as the credit crunch, we must be ambitious in our hopes for the United Nations.

### Conference 09 mini-website

This site – [www.una.org.uk/annualconference](http://www.una.org.uk/annualconference) – features Sir John Holmes's unabridged keynote speech and much more, including:

- The conference policy document 'Towards a strong, credible and effective UN 2009'. If you are a UNA member, the document is enclosed with this issue of New World.

- UN Quiz: test your UN knowledge with this Annual Conference favourite
- 'The Age of Stupid': screened at Annual Conference, find out how your local group can rent this film for screenings.

These resources are all available at: [www.una.org.uk/annualconference](http://www.una.org.uk/annualconference)  
Those without internet access should contact our Membership Officer Rich Nelmes on 020 7766 3456 or [nelmes@una.org.uk](mailto:nelmes@una.org.uk)

UNA-UK has already taken action on many of the issues debated at Annual Conference:

- we urged the UK to continue to protest against Aung San Suu Kyi's detainment, strengthen targeted sanctions against Burma and increase aid to local NGOs
- we asked the UK to do all it can to ensure proper humanitarian access to the Tamil refugee camps in Sri Lanka
- we wrote to the FCO regarding the possibility of a memorial being erected to British peacekeepers and humanitarians who have lost their lives in UN operations
- we proposed that the UK begins planning for the General Assembly's 2011 review of the Human Rights Council
- we put our name to an e-Parliament petition calling for clean energy supergrids
- we are promoting the 10:10 initiative, a Soil Association campaign to save honey bees, an early day motion on vulture funds and a Stamp Out Poverty initiative on a currency transaction levy – find out more at [www.una.org.uk/dosomething](http://www.una.org.uk/dosomething)
- Lord Hannay is keeping up the pressure on these and other issues – such as Cyprus, Gaza and development – in the House of Lords. Read more at [www.una.org.uk/parliament](http://www.una.org.uk/parliament)



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ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009

## Keynote speech: Humanitarian challenges in the 21st century

Sir John Holmes  
UN Under-Secretary-  
General for  
Humanitarian Affairs



**On the humanitarian front, the UN** has a success story to tell. Our ability to respond rapidly, effectively and predictably to crises, natural or man made, has improved out of all recognition in the last 20 years. But the challenges we face today are nevertheless formidable.

The humanitarian landscape is being shaped in new ways by profound and threatening global challenges: climate change; the food crisis; population growth; demographic shifts to high-risk areas; rapid urbanisation; land, water and energy scarcities; disturbance to key ecosystems; pandemics; and, last but not least in the shorter term, the impact of the current economic and financial crisis on the poorest and most vulnerable groups in our world. Against this backdrop, there is the enduring tension between national sovereignty and humanitarian work.

Humanitarian action is in fact much less subject to this tension than other core UN areas, for example peacekeeping or human rights. Nevertheless it does come into play more often than it should.

The starting point is often the perception that humanitarian assistance is not neutral or independent but part of a wider Western or Northern agenda. At worst, this is manifested in the belief that there is a hidden political motive behind humanitarian activities. At best, it reflects the view that while the intentions of humanitarian organisations may be impartial, in practice they cannot help reflecting Western/Northern mindsets, which they unwittingly foist on unwilling recipient populations.

The former suspicion is particularly prevalent among major non-state actors. It is largely responsible for the sad truth that, in some areas, a UN, NGO or even



UNA-UK delegates assemble at the Scottish Parliament, June 2009. © Simon Hollington/sjh photography

Red Cross/Crescent flag no longer offers protection but invites attack. The latter is more insidious and, no doubt, more widespread, often not openly admitted, but all the more pernicious for that. These suspicions result in:

**Lack of access.** Access for humanitarians is fundamental. But all too often, it is deliberately restricted or complicated by governments and other actors who do not want international eyes to see what they are up to. Think of the latter stages of the Sri Lankan government's battle against the LTTE. Think of Myanmar's initial resistance to aid after Cyclone Nargis.

**'In some areas, a UN, NGO or even Red Cross/Crescent flag no longer offers protection but invites attack'**

**Violence against humanitarians.** 2008 was statistically the deadliest year yet for humanitarian staff. Afghanistan and Somalia currently lead in deaths, kidnappings and attacks, but Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, are becoming increasingly dangerous too. The trend is not yet universal but I fear the possible contagion effect as others watch and see how effectively such violence can restrict access.

**Reluctance to permit protection of human rights.** One of the fundamental pillars of modern humanitarian action is to protect civilians from violence and other rights abuses. This is seen as unacceptably political in nature, aimed at changing behaviour or even regimes. Or as culturally interventionist, e.g. by drawing attention to taboo issues like sexual violence.

**Resistance to calls for accountability.**

Such calls are seen as politically motivated and likely to delay or derail peace settlements. Reactions to the International Criminal Court are only the tip of this particular iceberg. And you do not need to be a fanatical ICC supporter to see that in many parts of the world, the greatest threat to sustainable peace is precisely the habit of impunity.

**Reticence vis-à-vis the 'responsibility to protect' concept.** Sovereignty and anti-interventionism are at the heart of the R2P debate, although the responsibility is above all that of governments themselves to protect their own citizens.

Are these suspicions at all justified? I dismiss altogether the virulent suspicion of humanitarians as dancing to someone else's political tune. While we must continually examine our own policies and practices, significant humanitarian organisations – whether UN, NGO or Red Cross/Crescent, are what they say they are, and do what they say they do, i.e. respond to needs in a manner that is equitable, without discrimination and irrespective of politics of any kind. There are no more fierce defenders of these principles than humanitarian actors themselves.

But the milder version is trickier. Humanitarian assistance has indeed for many years been a Western/Northern dominated affair. No one should feel the need to apologise for that but there is certainly a risk of seeming arrogant, all too ready to tell local governments what to do and how to do it. No doubt that risk is not always successfully avoided. Let me suggest several ways to prevent this risk:

- 1) Humanitarian agencies should promote greater authority (and visibility) of their local staff. Let's support the creation of Oxfam Indias and Care

- Kenyas, and pro-actively encourage their full involvement in our humanitarian response.
- 2) Let's focus more on building local, national and regional capacity to respond to emergencies. Putting more emphasis on reducing the risks and impacts of disasters before they happen is a natural complement to this.
  - 3) We must work harder to broaden the donor base of the international humanitarian effort. The emerging political and economic powers such as China, India, Russia, Brazil, Mexico and Indonesia need to accept more of the responsibilities and costs that accompany 'big player' status.
  - 4) We need to better explain the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. In particular, we need a more systematic approach to improve the compliance of non-state armed

- groups with international humanitarian law, e.g. by engaging them in dialogue or through targeted sanctions.
- 5) Finally, we should look at concepts like R2P in their totality, and with a realistic approach to what is genuinely needed and justifiable, rather than bandying around words like genocide too freely. Such an approach is not serious and only discredits the important principle that is being defended.

In short we need an approach that shows more respect to those people and societies whom we are trying to help and the countries from which they come, that appears more as help than as interference, and that is a genuinely shared enterprise.

As for the other challenges – climate change, food shortages, etc – I think we are going to need much more than the current \$12 billion per year, which represents the world's humanitarian 'insurance

policy', and which looks increasingly good value compared to the average bank bail-out or fiscal stimulus package. But money alone is obviously not the solution. Part of the answer, and a particular challenge for the humanitarian community at the same time, is to favour prevention rather than response.

The bad news is that these developments are happening at an unprecedented and unanticipated speed. Unless we act comprehensively and quickly, these challenges may overwhelm us. The first to suffer will be the poorest and most vulnerable who have done the least to bring about these new threats. But no-one will be immune from the effects in this interdependent world. The good news is that mankind is good at adapting to new situations. There is no call to sink into unremitting gloom. We must remain fundamentally optimistic that we will find the ways to avert the worst.

## Please vote on the proposal to change the format of Conference in 2010

Dear Member,

We are asking all members to vote on a proposal to hold a one-day outreach conference in June 2010, suspending (on a trial basis) our traditional residential weekend policy conference for that year.

Only a small percentage of our membership (less than 2%) attends Annual Conference in its current form. Attendance has been in steady decline for many years, from over 250 in the 1970s to less than 80 in recent years. The outreach conference would be open to all UNA members, other NGOs, and the public. From previous experience we could expect to attract a new audience of 300-400.

This new style would provide a big boost to UNA-UK's public profile and attract new members. The format would be a combination of high-quality speakers, workshops, films, and stalls with resources on a range of topics including disarmament, human rights, the MDGs, climate change and UN reform. This outreach conference would not receive or debate policy motions but rather focus on equipping members and supporters with the tools to more effectively pursue UNA-UK's key goals. It would be advertised externally as a 'UN Forum'. As well as appealing to our broader membership, we believe this format will attract many younger people to UNA-UK for the first time.

This format was discussed but not formally voted on in an open forum at our Edinburgh conference in June 2009, and met with general approval. It has the support of our Chair Lord Hannay, the Conference Procedure Committee and Executive Director Sam Daws. It is, however, important that the entire membership is consulted before proceeding with this trial format.

In addition to engaging with many more people, changing the format to a one-day outreach conference would save significant costs and staff time currently spent on preparing for

a residential policy conference. At a time when UNA-UK, like all voluntary associations, faces severe challenges from the current economic climate, this would free up valuable financial and staff time resources. It is also easier to attract speakers and secure funding for a wider-ranging public engagement event. Other UNAs, e.g. Sweden and India, have moved successfully to similar alternating conference formats.

Subject to positive feedback, UNA-UK would alternate between a weekend residential policy and a one-day outreach conference. It is suggested the first outreach conference be held in London in June 2010. Subsequent outreach and policy conferences would be held in different locations around the UK, as in previous years.

Obviously, this change would mean there is a longer period between policy conferences. On an ongoing basis, policy concerns of the membership will continue to be received and reviewed by the Board through its Policy Committee, and overseen by the Procedure Committee. The Chair of Conference also has a guaranteed place on the Board's Policy Committee to ensure members' input into policy.

We believe that the disadvantage of a longer period between policy conferences can be mitigated in part by the time it will make available for membership implementation of existing campaign and educational objectives. We also hope that this new format will significantly increase participation among both existing members and those new to UNA-UK.

Please use the enclosed voting form and freepost envelope to let us know your opinion.

Yours,

*Kate Grady, Chair of Conference*  
*Andrew Boakes, Vice-Chair of Conference*

# The membership at work

## Birmingham welcomes Ban

On 21 June, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited Birmingham to address the 100th Rotary International Convention and attend a reception hosted by the University of Birmingham. UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay was invited to a dinner with the Secretary-General, and UNA Central Region officers Gian Clare, Chris Dickenson, Gillian Briggs and Elizabeth Way were among those who met Mr Ban. The Secretary-General used the occasion to draw attention to climate change, praising Birmingham's efforts to "blend environmental practices with technologies of the future".

Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor David Eastwood said: "it is a particular pleasure to welcome the Secretary-General of the UN, as Birmingham researchers play a crucial role in informing policy and debate on issues of security, global governance and ethics, elements that become more important in uncertain and turbulent times". The University's Centre for the Study of Global Ethics – the first of its kind in the UK – was established by the late president of UNA Central Region, Elnora Ferguson.



Ban Ki-moon and Chris Dickenson, UNA Central Region.  
© Chris Dickenson/UNA-UK



Gian Clare, Chair of UNA Central Region, and Ban Ki-moon.  
© Chris Dickenson/UNA-UK



Peter Ricketts, Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service prepares to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in memory of fallen peacekeepers, 21 May 2009. © FCO

## UNA Westminster honours peacekeepers

Since 1948 over 2,500 peacekeepers from 118 nations have been killed in the course of duty, including 99 British personnel. UNA Westminster branch once again teamed up with the Royal United Services Institute to honour them by marking the International Day of UN Peacekeepers. One of the UK's most authoritative events on peacekeeping, the conference featured a major speech by Dr Bruce Jones on the changing politics of peace operations (see page 11 for an article by Dr Jones), and the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph.

## The 'A' in UNA

UNA-UK has launched The 'A' in UNA, a new members' forum which features news and views from members and branches. The name of the forum is taken from a regular members section in UNA-UK's former flagship magazine from the 1950s: 'United Nations News'.

**Have your say! Visit [www.una.org.uk/MembersForum](http://www.una.org.uk/MembersForum)**

# Listings



## 26 SEPTEMBER

### UNA LYMINGTON

UNA Lymington will hold an event entitled 'Young People and The United Nations' with speaker Marco Moraes (former President of UNA-UK's youth wing UNYSA). This event will take place from 12.30 to 2.30pm at Lymington Community Centre, New Street, Lymington, Hants SO41 9BQ.  
[Contact: Patricia de Mowbray on Patricia@radioactive.org.uk](mailto:Patricia@radioactive.org.uk)

## 26 SEPTEMBER

### UNA BURY ST EDMUNDS & NEWMARKET

UNA Bury St Edmunds & Newmarket, together with Amnesty International and Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource, is holding a meeting with speaker Martin Bell entitled 'Reflections on war'. This event will take place from 3pm at Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH. Admission is free, but strictly ticket-only.  
[Contact: Martin Gienke on martin@gienke.net or 01223 882 426](mailto:martin@gienke.net)

## 29 SEPTEMBER

### UNA SHEFFIELD

UNA Sheffield will hold its Annual General Meeting followed by a talk by Gillian Briggs (Central Region UNA) entitled 'UN women peacekeepers - are they a good idea?'. This event will take place from 7.30 to 8.45pm at the Quaker Meeting House, St James Street.  
[Contact: Cliff Crellin on patriciciff@gmail.com or 0114 230 2102](mailto:patriciciff@gmail.com)

## 3 OCTOBER

### UNA HARPENDEN

UNA Harpenden will hold a public meeting at 11am in St Nicholas Church Hall,

Harpenden. Klearchos Kyriakides from Hertfordshire University will speak on 'The rule of law, international justice and the legacy of Iraq'.

[Contact: Trevor Evans on 01582 713895 or jandtevens@ntlworld.com](mailto:jandtevens@ntlworld.com)

## 7 OCTOBER

### UNA TWICKENHAM & RICHMOND

The branch will hold its AGM and host a speech by Lord Chris Patten of Barnes, former Governor of Hong Kong and European Commissioner for External Relations (1999-2004), on 'Global Problems and Global Governance'. All welcome.  
[Contact: Olivia Richardson on 020 8943 3646](mailto:Olivia.Richardson@cew.org.uk)

## 13 OCTOBER

### UNA TUNBRIDGE WELLS

UNA Tunbridge Wells will host a talk on 'The United Nations - Putting its house in order on women' by Lesley Abdela MBE, who was voted UK Woman Political Journalist of the Year for 2009. The talk will be followed by the Annual General Meeting for UNA Tunbridge Wells. This event will take place from 7.30pm at St.John's Church Hall, St.John's Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9LG.  
[Contact: Brian Beeley on 01892 533566](mailto:brian.beeley@btinternet.com)

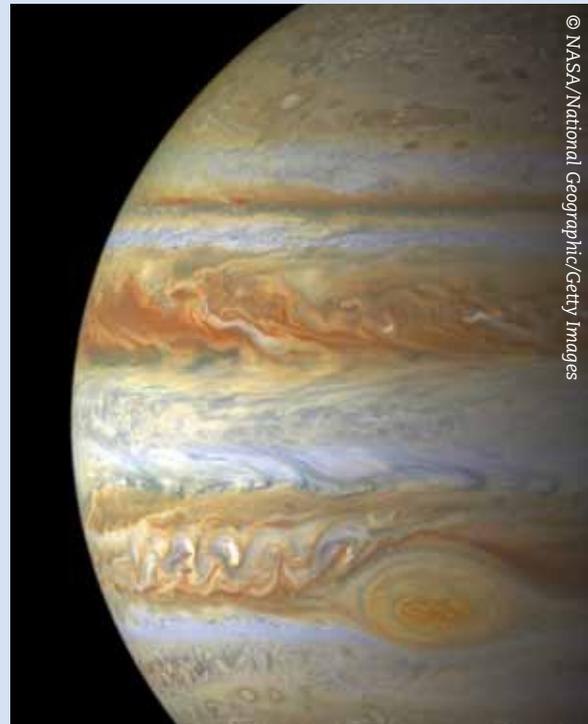
## 21 OCTOBER

### UNA SHEFFIELD

UNA Sheffield will hold a joint meeting on 'Climate change and its effect on women' with speaker Rosalie Huzzard. This event will take place from 7.30pm at Totley Rise Methodist Church, Baslow Road, Totley S17 4DJ.  
[Contact: Cliff Crellin on patriciciff@gmail.com or 0114 230 2102](mailto:patriciciff@gmail.com)

## 24 OCTOBER

### UNA NORTHERN IRELAND



This year, UNA Northern Ireland will mark UN Day and the UN International Year of Astronomy simultaneously to celebrate astronomy's contributions to society and culture. The day, which is being organised with the help of the directors of the Armagh Observatory and Armagh Planetarium, will include a tour of the observatory, a talk, and a show in the planetarium. UNA members and local representatives of CEWC, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNYSA will be participating.

The Armagh Observatory is a modern astronomical research institute with a rich heritage. Founded in 1790 by Archbishop Richard Robinson, it is one of the UK and Ireland's leading scientific research establishments. Around 25 astronomers are actively studying stellar astrophysics, the sun, solar system astronomy, and the Earth's climate.

The Armagh Planetarium is a world-renowned astronomical educational establishment. Established in 1968, its purpose is to bring astronomy to a wider audience. It is a multi-faceted organisation dedicated to astronomy education for all levels - from nursery through to retirement age.

[Contact: Hilary Sloan on 028 9068 2379 or hilarysloan@269solutions.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:hilarysloan@269solutions.freeserve.co.uk)  
[Carol Conlin on carolconlin@btinternet.com](mailto:carolconlin@btinternet.com)  
[Judith Fawcett on judithfawcett@hotmail.com](mailto:judithfawcett@hotmail.com)

## 23 OCTOBER

### UNA HARPENDEN

UNA Harpenden will raise the UN flag at Harpenden Town Hall at 10.30am to mark UN Day.

Contact: Trevor Evans on 01582 713895 or [jandtevens@ntlworld.com](mailto:jandtevens@ntlworld.com)

## 24 OCTOBER

### UNA LYMINGTON

UNA Lymington will hold an event entitled 'The Global Compact and how the UN can encourage a socially responsible private sector' with speaker Susannah Anastasi, UNA-UK YPN advisory group member. This event will take place from 12.30 to 2.30pm at Lymington Community Centre, New Street, Lymington, Hants SO41 9BQ.

Contact: Patricia de Mowbray on [Patricia@radioactive.org.uk](mailto:Patricia@radioactive.org.uk)

## 24 OCTOBER

### UNA WARWICK & DISTRICT

The branch is holding a public meeting with speaker Dr Rosemary Hollis on 'Israel and the Palestinians: Is a two-state solution possible?' The lecture will take place from 12 to 2pm at St Paul's Church, Leicester Street, Leamington Spa CV32 4TE.

Contact: Gian Clare on 01926 412289 or [gianclare@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:gianclare@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## 24 OCTOBER

### UNA HULL

UNA Hull will hold a conference in Hull's Guildhall on climate change and the prospects for success at the UN Copenhagen conference.

Contact: Janet Blackman on 01482 848 448 or Judith Weltman on [judithweltman@hotmail.com](mailto:judithweltman@hotmail.com)

## 25 OCTOBER

### UNA SHROPSHIRE

UNA Shropshire will hold its annual UN service led by the Revd John Howard BSc, MA, MMin. The service will take place at 3.30pm at Church Stretton Methodist Church SY6 6DQ.

Contact: Ruth Davies on 01694 724304 or [daviescs@btinternet.com](mailto:daviescs@btinternet.com)

## 25 OCTOBER

### UNA HARPENDEN

UNA Harpenden, together with UNICEF, will be holding a UN service from 6.30pm at the High Street Methodist Church.

Contact: Trevor Evans on 01582 713895 or [jandtevens@ntlworld.com](mailto:jandtevens@ntlworld.com)

## 10 NOVEMBER

### UNA TUNBRIDGE WELLS

The branch will host a talk on 'Global challenges, local solutions', which will review the

experiences of refugees and asylum seekers living in the UK. The talk will be given by representatives of Refugee Action, an independent national charity, working with refugees and people seeking asylum, and will be followed by short films and a discussion. This event will take place at 7.30pm at Grosvenor Hall, St. John's Church, St. Johns Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Contact: Jane Macnaghten on [macnag@btinternet.com](mailto:macnag@btinternet.com)

## 28 NOVEMBER

### UNA LYMINGTON

UNA Lymington will be holding a meeting on 'The credit crunch and the UN' with speaker Rt Hon. Vince Cable MP (deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats). This event will take place from 2 to 4pm at Lymington Community Centre, New Street, Lymington, Hants SO41 9BQ.

Contact: Patricia de Mowbray on [Patricia@radioactive.org.uk](mailto:Patricia@radioactive.org.uk)

## 30 NOVEMBER

### UNA NOTTINGHAM

The branch is organising a Model UN Security Council at Ashby School, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 1DT.

Contact: Farnoosh Shahrokhshahi on [farnoosh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:farnoosh@hotmail.co.uk)

UNA-UK branches, regions and nations wishing to publicise events in New World should ensure that the information submitted is accurate, clear and complete. Events listings must include the following points of information:

- Title/purpose of the event
- Start and end times
- Venue details
- Contact point (full name, telephone number, e-mail address and, where applicable, web address)

Events listings should be sent to [website@una.org.uk](mailto:website@una.org.uk) or UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court London SW1A 2EL.

UNA-UK takes no responsibility for the events and/or campaigns organised by UNA-UK branches, regions or nations.

# LOBBY FOR THE UN 09-10

## LAUNCH EVENT:

3.30pm, 27 October 2009

Mothers' Union, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB

- For a new global climate deal - see page 22
- For a world without nuclear weapons - see page 18
- For a strong, credible and effective UN

Lobby for the UN is UNA-UK's annual campaign to promote dialogue between voters and MPs on UN issues throughout the parliamentary year. With both the Copenhagen climate change summit and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference coming up, we are asking members to aim high: lobby your MP to secure a new global climate deal and a world free from nuclear weapons!

For more information, visit [www.una.org.uk/lobby](http://www.una.org.uk/lobby) or contact Georgina Banks on 020 7766 3457 or [banks@una.org.uk](mailto:banks@una.org.uk)



## UNA-UK Board and UNA Trust elections: deadline 1 December 2009

If you wish to stand for election to the UNA-UK Board of Directors or the UNA Trust, you must submit a nomination form. There are currently four elected members of the UNA-UK Board and one elected Trustee of the UNA Trust. Please note that those elected assume the legal responsibilities and liabilities arising from these positions.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from [www.una.org.uk/annualconference](http://www.una.org.uk/annualconference) or requested from Carol Hodson on 020 7766 3455 or [hodson@una.org.uk](mailto:hodson@una.org.uk). Completed forms should be sent to Carol Hodson at UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL no later than 1 December 2009.

# Have you considered becoming a Friend of UNA-UK?

'Friend of UNA-UK' is a new membership category for those able to give the Association additional financial support. If you commit to a monthly payment of £5 (or £6 for joint members) via Direct Debit, you will receive a complimentary copy of **The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations**, edited by Sam Daws and Tom Weiss.

If you have not already done so, we hope you will consider increasing your financial commitment to UNA-UK in this way.

If you would like to become a Friend of UNA-UK or would like more information, please contact our Membership Officer Rich Nelmes on 020 7766 3456 or [nelmes@una.org.uk](mailto:nelmes@una.org.uk).



## The Young Professionals Network goes global

YPN member Tim Jarman reports from Seoul

**YPN**  
Young Professionals Network



In 2006, UNA-UK's newly-formed Young Professionals Network (YPN) played a key role in founding the Global Young Professionals (GYP) of the World Federation of UNAs (WFUNA). The aim was to forge links between existing networks and to encourage the creation of new young professionals programmes. Three years later, I joined other GYP representatives in Seoul, Republic of Korea, to give a progress report to the 39th WFUNA Plenary Assembly.

Since 2006, UNA-UK's network has doubled in size every year and now boasts over 3,000 members. It spearheads UNA-UK's work on engaging the private sector in pursuit of UN objectives, and represents UNA-UK on the UK Network of the UN Global Compact. UNA-USA's Young Professionals for International Cooperation now has groups that work locally in different regions of the US. And UNA Netherlands has set up its own young professionals programme. GYP itself has launched a new website and logo.

Over the course of the Plenary Assembly, it emerged that many UNAs have a common problem: the difficulty in retaining youth members after they leave school or university. Having a young professionals network enables UNAs to offer their youth members a natural 'next step'. UNA-UK's network, for example, has produced a guide to careers at the UN and regularly features job postings on its website ([www.una.org.uk/ypn](http://www.una.org.uk/ypn)). But young professional programmes are not only a great a way to 'plug' the membership age gap, they also give UNAs a means of engaging with a powerful section of civil society: aspirant leaders who have ambition...and a conscience.

WFUNA's triennial Plenary meetings are an inspiring reminder that UNA-UK is part of an international 'extended family'. Whether we are members of UNA-UK, YPN or UNYSA, we are also part of something much larger.

I took away some great memories from Seoul, together with a renewed determination to help YPN use its expertise to nurture new young professionals programmes in our sister UNAs.

For more information on GYP, visit [www.globalyoungprofessionals.org](http://www.globalyoungprofessionals.org)



Tim Jarman and Evangeline Taylor give a presentation on the Global Young Professionals. © Tim Jarman/UNA-UK

## DO SOMETHING!

- Ask your CEO to support a letter urging governments to implement the UN Convention against Corruption (find out more at [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)). If your CEO is willing, please send an email providing the company name, sector, country and CEO name to: [uncac-letter@unglobalcompact.org](mailto:uncac-letter@unglobalcompact.org).
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is calling on young entrepreneurs to help policy-makers understand that 'the transition to a low-carbon economy is not only necessary, but economically viable and technologically possible'. Get your colleagues, clients and customers to sign the UN's Seal the Deal climate change petition (see page 24).

THE YPN INTERVIEW:

**NAME:** Barbara Amono-Oceng

**PLACE OF WORK:** International Organisations Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**YPN MEMBER SINCE:** 2008



**What do you do on a typical day at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)?**

There's no such thing! Given that we lead on the UN, particularly the Security Council, my work centres on what is happening in 'real time'. I spend a lot of time briefing FCO ministers on issues in the Council, providing advice to colleagues in the UK and overseas posts (especially the UK missions to New York, Geneva, and Vienna) and other government departments. I also attend meetings with foreign officials, overseas visitors, colleagues and external contacts like UNA-UK.

**In what ways does the FCO's International Organisations Department (IOD) strive to make a difference?**

IOD is at the heart of one of the FCO's four strategic objectives: developing effective international institutions, particularly the UN. This departmental objective underpins our work on other FCO objectives e.g. conflict prevention, human rights and democracy, and international security. By working to strengthen the UN to deal with the challenges of the 21st century, we are also strengthening the UN's performance in, and ability to, deliver on promoting peace and tackling human rights violations.

**Why did you join the diplomatic service?**

I actually didn't plan on having a career in the FCO! I joined part-time while I was in my second year at university and by the time I'd graduated, I had been there for over a year. I thoroughly enjoyed the work and the variety of career opportunities it offered, for example, policy, consular, finance, trade and investment. I also found that I had developed so much in that one year. I love travelling overseas, and I get to work on high-profile issues with a wide range of people from diverse backgrounds. So, I decided to stay on to continue to develop and embark on a career in the FCO.

**What do you enjoy most and least about your job?**

**MOST:** The variety in my day-to-day work. Being centrally placed to advise ministers, as IOD is at the heart of British foreign policy. Working on fast-moving, exciting and very relevant issues. Being able to work with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures. The opportunity to travel to countries I've never thought of going to.

**LEAST:** it is relentless! There are very few quiet days. Anytime an international crisis arises my team is usually involved right from the start.

**What advice would you give to people interested in a similar career?**

Get in touch! You can find out more about careers in the FCO on our website [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk). If you are a student you can do an internship at the FCO through one of the programmes we run. The things I find most important are: having an interest in foreign affairs and in overseas travel.

## Stop the spread! UNYSA starts campaigning

You can keep up with UNYSA on:  
[www.una.org.uk/youth](http://www.una.org.uk/youth)  
[www.twitter.com/campaignsunysa](http://www.twitter.com/campaignsunysa)  
[www.unysacampaigns.blogspot.com](http://www.unysacampaigns.blogspot.com)  
 Facebook group: UNYSA-UK

You can also sign up to our  
 monthly e-newsletter, which  
 features news, action points, events  
 and career opportunities, by visiting  
[www.una.org.uk/youth](http://www.una.org.uk/youth)

A warm welcome from your new Youth Council! We hope you've had a brilliant start to the year. Since our election at UNYSA's Annual Conference last April, we've been working hard to get a good programme ready for you. Here's what we've come up with:

- STOP THE SPREAD – campaigning for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation (see next page)
- Action on climate change – working with Global Action Plan, an environmental charity, on how we can effectively call for action on climate change
- The next generation – scaling up our School Outreach Programme to encourage UNYSA branches to in-

form more young people about the UN

- Growing UNYSA – strengthening our Regional Development Programme, which provides support to our university branches

We hope you will get involved in all these areas of work – please contact us to find out more and to send us your ideas. UNYSA branches will already have received more information in our Freshers Fair mailing – along with lots of UNYSA goodies!

We also want to find out more about the activities that you are planning at your universities, so keep in touch! You can email us on: [unysa.uk@gmail.com](mailto:unysa.uk@gmail.com)

Alix Walton      Ben      Zumer  
 Hao. Chen.  
 Chris Day      Morris Marah      Sawhney  
 Sagal Ali

Nick Boucher – President  
 Pranav Sawhney – Vice-President  
 Morris Marah – Model UN & Education Officer  
 Alix Walton – Model UN & Education Officer

Luke Harman – Regional Development Coordinator  
 Sagal Ali – Regional Development Deputy  
 Chris Day – Campaigns Officer  
 Hao Chen – Campaigns Officer

UNYSA  
 United Nations Youth and Student Association



## Thanks Mr Ban, we'll take it from here...

Model UNs (MUNs) give students the chance to experience what it's like to represent a country at the UN. You could end up setting up a peacekeeping mission in a Security Council simulation or debating developing-country debt at a model General Assembly. MUN is not just good for CV points, it's also a great way to travel, meet like-minded people and have fun!

Many UNYSA branches organise MUNs. Christopher Ching of Durham UNYSA, reports on DURMUN 09:

*DURMUN (12-14 June 2009) was a great success, despite being plagued by train delays! Sir Richard Jolly – an international development expert and former Deputy Director of UNICEF – gave an inspiring keynote speech. Delegates then tackled a packed agenda, starting with a debate on piracy in the horn of Africa and ending with a statement in response to North Korea's reaction to new sanctions imposed by the real Security Council the previous day. We also*

*voted for the best delegate, with the honour going to a student from Oxford University representing Brazil. A big 'thank you' to UNA-UK for providing us with speaker contacts and materials. DURMUN will be back next year!*

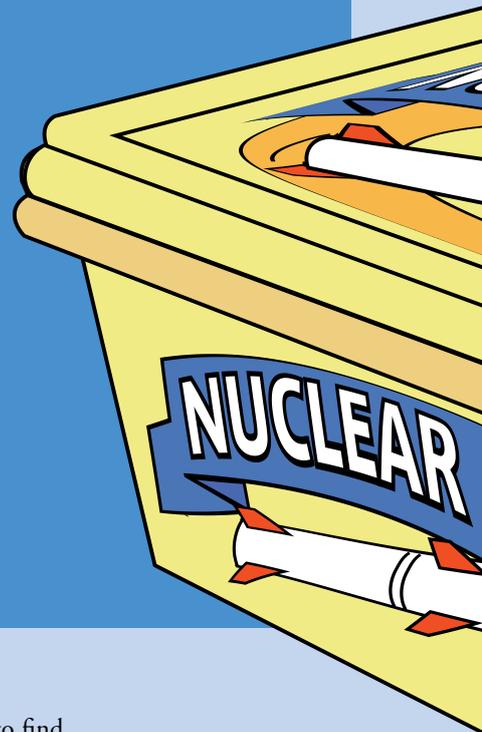
In addition to DURMUN 2010, here is a list of some of the other MUNs taking place in the UK during the next academic year.

- OxiMUN (Oxford University) – October 2009
- Methodist College Belfast MUN – October 2009 (tbc)
- Cambridge MUN – November 2009
- CEWC CYMRU MUN (Swansea) – November 2009
- London International MUN – February 2010
- SCOT MUN (Edinburgh) – February 2010 (tbc)
- Munex (Essex University) – April 2010

If your UNYSA is holding an MUN this year, let us know! Email [unysa.uk@gmail.com](mailto:unysa.uk@gmail.com)

# STOP THE SPREAD

A REPORT BY  
NICK BOUCHER,  
UNYSA PRESIDENT  
'YOUR MAN IN  
SOUTH KOREA'



From Hiroshima to North Korea's recent missile tests, the threat of nuclear apocalypse has long cast a shadow over the world. But there is now a real mood for change (see page 14). STOP THE SPREAD aims to seize this opportunity, and to raise awareness of an issue that has not necessarily been at the top of the youth agenda in recent years. We hope to educate, engage and equip young people to campaign for a world free from nuclear weapons.

Our STOP THE SPREAD campaign pack contains briefings on the five dangers posed by nuclear weapons and lots of ideas on how you can get involved. In order to reach young people outside the UK, we entered an international competition called 'students for a nuclear-free world', run by the World Federation of UNAs (see page 19). The competition invited UNA youth associations to design a campaign that invigorates and mobilises young people to become part of the global movement to rid the world of nuclear weapons. I travelled to South Korea for WFUNA's triennial plenary meeting to share our campaign pack with youth delegates from 24 countries.

My mission in Seoul was to find out if other UNA youth associations had done – or were planning to do – work on nuclear disarmament, and sign them up to our cause! Although only a few associations – like those in Australia, Slovenia, Turkey and Togo – had done something on this issue, almost all of them were interested in working with us. The fact that both UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and WFUNA President Hans Blix (who formerly headed the UN's nuclear watchdog, the IAEA) mentioned the urgent need for disarmament in their speeches no doubt contributed to the general enthusiasm for STOP THE SPREAD. As did the fact that our campaign pack was awarded a certificate of merit by Dr Blix! UNYSA has been gathering the support of WFUNA Youth's new Coordinating Committee, and

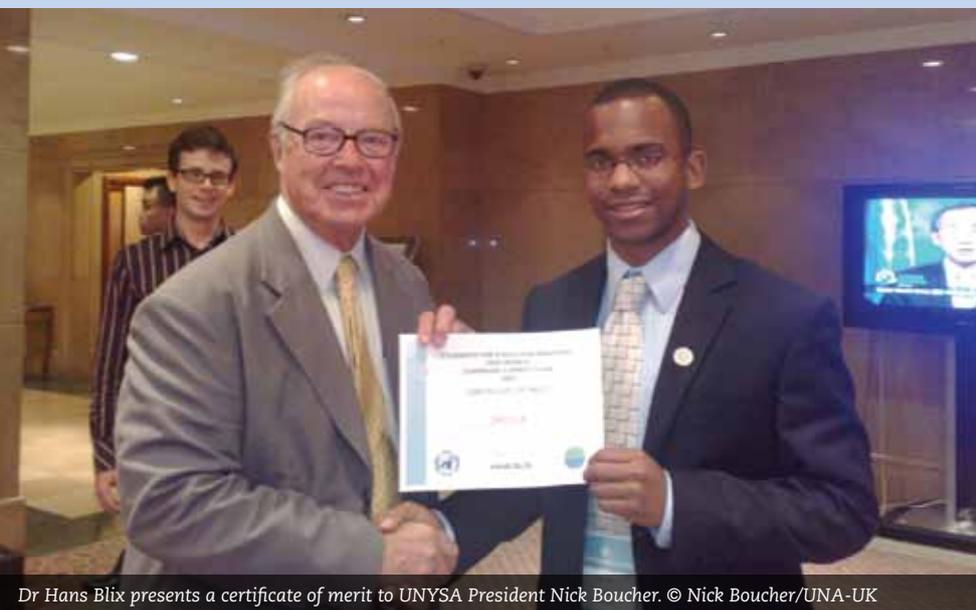
we hope that STOP THE SPREAD will become part of WFUNA Youth's campaign programme this year. We'll keep you posted!

In the meantime, we'll be ramping up our activities in the UK. As the UK is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council and one of the five 'original' nuclear-weapons states recognised in the UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a successful campaign here could have a big impact globally. In order to achieve this, we need your help!

On the next page, you will find some action points from our STOP THE SPREAD campaign. The pack is available online at: [www.una.org.uk/youth](http://www.una.org.uk/youth). Get creative, get involved, get campaigning!

Keep us posted on your activities by emailing [unysa.uk@gmail.com](mailto:unysa.uk@gmail.com)

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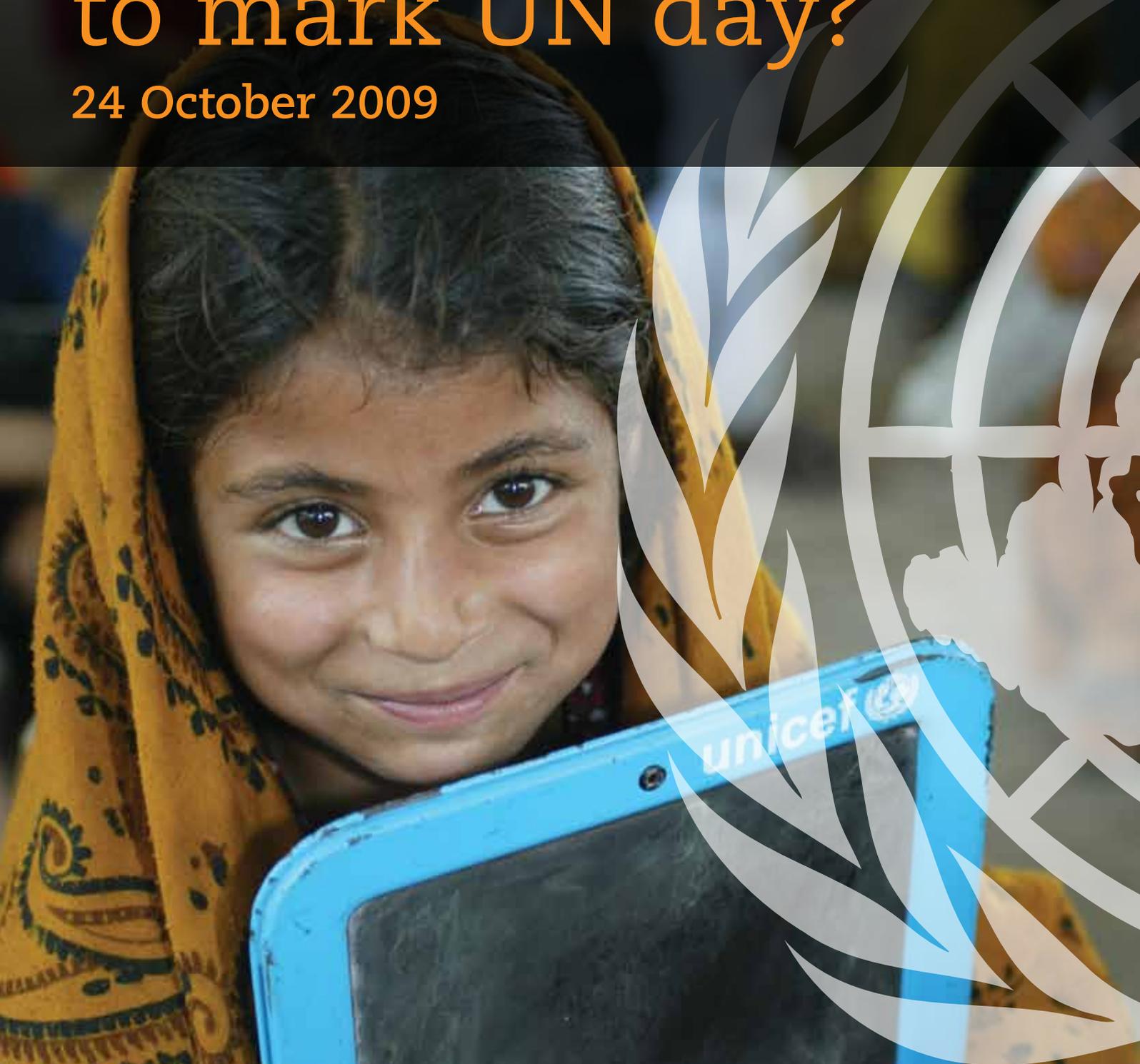
Dr Hans Blix presents a certificate of merit to UNYSA President Nick Boucher. © Nick Boucher/UNA-UK



- Support the UN's 'WMD - We Must Disarm' campaign by tweeting a message promoting nuclear disarmament [www.twitter.com/wemustdisarm](http://www.twitter.com/wemustdisarm)
- Raise awareness by screening Last Best Chance, a film produced by the Nuclear Threat Initiative. Get your free copy by visiting: [www.lastbestchance.org](http://www.lastbestchance.org)
- Join world leaders who want to rid the world of nuclear weapons by signing the Global Zero declaration at [www.globalzero.org](http://www.globalzero.org)
- Ask your local mayor to join Mayors For Peace, an initiative founded by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that aims to prevent other cities from suffering a nuclear attack ([www.mayorsforpeace.org](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org))
- Visit WFUNA's Global Disarmament Hub to discuss nuclear disarmament with young people from all over the world ([www.disarmamenthub.org](http://www.disarmamenthub.org))
- Learn more about nuclear issues by visiting [www.nuclearsecurityproject.org](http://www.nuclearsecurityproject.org)

# What are you doing to mark UN day?

24 October 2009



Join us in raising money for the UNA Trust and UNICEF UK

Flag Day Collections 2009-10

[www.una.org.uk/flagday](http://www.una.org.uk/flagday)



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