

WFP feeds more than 1.3 million people in Darfur; more funds are needed

The UN World Food Program fed more than 1.3 million people in the Darfur region of western Sudan in September, exceeding its own target of 1.2 million and recording its largest food distribution since the humanitarian crisis began. However, of the US\$203 million needed for emergency food assistance for conflict-affected people in Darfur this year, WFP has confirmed contributions of US\$166.6 million, leaving a shortfall of 18.21 percent. To donate: please visit: <http://www.wfp.org/donation>.

The Pulse of Africa

The BBC World Service commissioned “The Pulse of Africa”, the largest survey ever conducted on the continent. The purpose was to get a better understanding of how Africans see themselves, their neighbors and the rest of the world. Over 7,500 urban residents were surveyed in April -May 2004 in the face-to-face interviews in Cameroon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia. The samples were randomly selected in each of the urban areas.

Churches launch a Campaign to support the Millennium Development Goals

The World Evangelical Alliance, which represents three million churches worldwide, has launched an anti-poverty effort, the Micah Challenge. The campaign calls upon Christians worldwide to support via donations and volunteer work the MDGs.

2nd Asian Civil Society Forum

CONGO is co-sponsoring the 2nd Asian Civil Society Forum, to take place from 21-25 November 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand. For more information to <http://www.ngocongo.org>.

UNA-Australia Launches White Ribbon Day

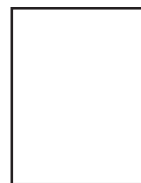
UNA-Australia partnered with UNIFEM Australia, Amnesty International (Australia) and the National Council of Churches (Australia) to launch the 2004 White Ribbon Day Campaign on October 21. White Ribbon Day is the largest effort by men across the world, working in partnership with women, to end men’s violence against women. On November 25 each year, the United Nations leads a worldwide strategy to encourage men to wear White Ribbons as a declaration of commitment to non-violence in all relationships. The day relies on support from men and women and their organizations and from business, industry and government. For more information, see www.unifem.org.au.



- ➔ Share your insights and experiences of participating in networks and partnerships shaping relationships between the emerging global civil society and the UN.
- ➔ Tell us all about “best practices”, new initiatives, and how to optimize the benefits of information communication technologies.
- ➔ Send your feedback, comments, and suggestions for future issues to the Editor, Stephanie Rossi at editor@wfuna.org.



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WFUNA Secretary-General’s Message on UN Day, 24 October 2004



In his United Nations Day message UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan recognizes that the world is a better place because of the United Nations. He believes, however, that reform is necessary. “We all need an effective United Nations — one that reflects the world we live in today, and can meet the challenges we will face tomorrow”.

Picking up on this appeal, WFUNA Secretary-General, Mr. James B. Sitrick called upon UNAs around the world to speak up in support of those principles upon which the United Nations was founded, and to encourage their political leaders to respond with vision and good will to Kofi Annan’s reform proposals.

“We have in place a strong global network that is growing each year with the addition of new UNAs and the strengthening of our affiliated youth organization, WFUNA-Youth. Let us work together to help mobilize civil society engagement with the Millennium Development Goals, promote teaching about the United Nations in schools and universities, including Model UN conferences, and facilitate the dissemination of information and dialogue on major questions of UN reform.”

“As a peoples’ movement in support of the United Nations, WFUNA and its member UNAs have a vital contribution to make in shaping public opinion, at all levels, on the necessary measures to revitalize the United Nations.”

Global Civil Society Champion

WFUNA congratulates Wangari Maathai of Kenya on being the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize 2004. She was praised by the awarding committee as “a source of inspiration for everyone in Africa fighting for sustainable development, democracy and peace”.

An academic, Ms. Maathai’s role as an environmental campaigner began in 1977 when she formed an organization - primarily of women - known as the Green Belt Movement. She aimed to curtail the devastating effects of deforestation and desertification, as well as to produce sustainable wood for fuel use. Her campaign mobilized poor women to plant some 30 million trees across Africa.

“Peace on earth depends on our ability to secure our living environment.”
- The Norwegian Nobel Committee



The movement grew to include projects to preserve biodiversity, educate people about their environment and nutrition, promote the rights of women and girls and fight against corruption.

Ms. Maathai has had a long and productive relationship with the United Nations, playing an important role at UN conferences such as the Earth Summit and serving on various UN advisory boards and juries.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee says Ms. Maathai, “has taken a holistic approach to sustainable development that embraces democracy, human rights and women’s rights in particular. She thinks globally and acts locally.”

In this issue:

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The mission of the World Federation of United Nations Associations is to inform, sustain and energize a global network of United Nations Associations to support the principles and programs of the United Nations and to help shape its agenda.

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Who's Who at the UN

SG Kofi Annan has appointed **Walter Kälin**, a legal professor from Switzerland with a long record of human rights advocacy, as his Representative on the human rights of the world's 24.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). A professor of constitutional and international public law at Bern University, M. Kälin will act as an independent expert, investigating and reporting on the treatment of IDPs.

Kofi Annan and H.E. **Judge Philippe Kirsch**, President of the International Criminal Court (ICC), signed an agreement on October 4 that establishes a legal foundation for cooperation between the UN and the ICC within their respective mandates. The UN-ICC Relationship Agreement covers key aspects of a new working relationship and includes provisions regarding the exchange of information between the two organizations, judicial assistance and intra-institutional cooperation. The Agreement also grants observer status to the ICC at the UN General Assembly.

An international commission of inquiry has been established to investigate reports of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and to determine whether or not acts of genocide have occurred in Darfur, Sudan. The Commission will comprise: **Antonio Cassese** of Italy, Chairman; and **Mohammed Fayek** of Egypt, **Diego García-Sayán** of Peru, **Hani Jilani** of Pakistan, and **Thérèse Striggner Scott** of Ghana. **Dumisa Ntsebeza** of South Africa will serve as Executive Director and will head the technical team supporting the Commission.

WFUNA Highlights

WFUNA Commemorates UN Day 2004

- WFUNA DSG Pera Wells was a key note speaker at the Montclair Chapter, UNA-USA commemoration of UN Day. She focused on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security - highlighting the findings of the 2004 UNIFEM report - Getting it Right, Doing it Right. Drawing attention to the many NGOs that support women in conflict and post conflict situations, she underscored the benefits of empowering women to help reduce and prevent further conflicts. For further information see - <http://www.womenwarpeace.org/>

UNAs around the world commemorated UN Day with a wide range of activities:

- UNA-Democratic Republic of Congo held seminars in Bukavu and Kinshasa on "Peace and stability in the DRC and the region: What MONUC has achieved so far?". In recognition of their efforts, the UNA-DRC has received an official invitation from the Office of the Special Representative of the UN SG for the Great Lakes region to observe the first Heads of State Regional Peace Summit, to be held in Dar es Salaam -Tanzania on 19-20 November 2004.
- At the request of UNA-Philippines, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo signed a Presidential Proclamation declaring October 18-24 as UN Week and encouraging the Filipino people to celebrate the importance of the day through various activities. UNA-P brought together diplomats and NGOs to discuss ways to realize the MDGs in the Philippines.
- UNA-Russia planned a series of events over several days including: the publication of a special issue of its Model UN newsletter; a dialogue on "The UN in Iraq"; a roundtable discussion on the MDGs; and a meeting with Mr. V.P. Lukin, Ombudsman of Russia, who delivered a lecture on the UN and Human Rights and the situation in Russia.

WFUNA supports the need to strengthen the UN

WFUNA Director, Bruna Faidutti, published an article on "The need to strengthen the United Nations" in the British journal Foresight (Vol. 6, N° 4, 2004). A synopsis of the article in "Global Challenges, the Atlantic Community and the Outlook for International Order" is available on the web.

William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery is opened at the FDR Library

WFUNA would like to congratulate Executive Committee Vice-Chairman, Ambassador William vanden Heuvel, on the dedication of the gallery in his name at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum in Hyde Park, NY. Amb. Vanden Heuvel is co-chair of the Board of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

What's Happening at the UN

Members elected in Security Council

The General Assembly elected Argentina, Denmark, Greece, Japan and the United Republic of Tanzania to serve as non-permanent members of the Security Council for two-year terms beginning on 1 January 2005.

United Nations Day - 24 October 2004

Launch of "Action Two" Reform Initiative

Strengthening UN Country Level Support for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
Wednesday, 27 October 2004
UN Secretariat, NY

World Day to Prevent Child Abuse,
19 November

World AIDS Day- 1 December



Portrait by Janet Ross

UN Partnerships in Action: Implementing the Millennium Declaration

1. "Freedom From Want": The Development Agenda

Report of the Technical Group on Innovative Financing Mechanisms

In response to the growing consensus that current aid levels will not be sufficient to finance the MDGs, the Presidents of Brazil, Chile, France, and Spain, have sponsored the Technical Group on Innovative Financing Mechanisms, to study various proposals for innovative ways of financing development. The group has prepared a report advocating proposals including global taxes on financial transactions and arms trade.

UNA-South Africa's MDG Challenge Competition

In partnership with UNDP-South Africa, the UNA-South Africa is launching an initiative aimed at generating awareness of the MDGs among students and staff at South African Universities through a nationally coordinated competition. Each participating team will form a six-member multi-disciplinary, multi-gender, multi-racial team that will compete in the MDG Challenge. Each team will write a paper that recommends a macro-strategy for implementing the MDGs in South Africa within a given budget. Each team will present their proposed strategy at a seminar and at a provincial workshop for civil society representatives. The teams will then finalise their proposed strategies, and present them at a national Synthesis Seminar where they will be given an opportunity to debate their strategies and to nominate the three best potential strategies. A panel of MDG and development experts, including South African government representatives, will comment on the proposals and choose a winner. The prize is a sponsored visit to New York where the winning team will have an opportunity to present their proposed MDG strategy for South Africa to various UN units engaged in the MDG initiative.

2. "Freedom From Fear": The Security Agenda

Rwandan female ex-Combatant briefs the Security Council on role of women in peacekeeping

The Ndabaga Association, the first association of female ex-combatants in the Great Lakes region, has asked for a role in regional peacekeeping missions in Africa based on their experience of warfare, its particular impact on women, and their interest in assisting women caught in conflict. Despite the essential roles they can play in post-conflict disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) processes, women are frequently excluded from these processes. In commemoration of the 4th anniversary of Resolution 1325, Ms Espe Kanani, President of the Ndabaga Association, has been invited, as part of the Arria Formula, to brief the Security Council on 21 October.

3. "A Sustainable Future": The Environmental Agenda

NGOs call for action on global warming

The Working Group on Climate Change and Development - a coalition of non-governmental organizations including Oxfam, Christian Aid, Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund - warns in the new report "Up in Smoke" that global warming threatens to reverse human progress and make the MDGs unattainable. The group called on governments to address the problem of global warming before poor countries are further devastated by problems related to the decline of arable land and seasonal flooding.

4. "Renewing the UN": The Institutional Agenda

NGLS Launches portal on UN-Civil Society Relations

The UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) is launching a new section of its website that will provide up-to-date information on UN reform with a special focus on UN - Civil Society Relations. The new section showcases background information on the reform process, including reports issued by the UNSG, the Carodoso Panel, statements by Member States, perspectives from the NGO community, background papers by WFUNA and more. Please visit: www.un-ngls.org/UNreform.

Draft Report 'A Global Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals'

The Manager of the Millennium Project, Mr. John McArthur, led the discussion of WFUNA's October roundtable dialogue on achieving the MDGs. He introduced the Draft Report 'A Global Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals', which will be presented in early 2005. Invited first respondents were Mr. Benjamin Quinto of the Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) and Michael Schultz of the UK Mission. For a summary record, please visit the WFUNA website.