



[Home](#) » [News and Events](#) » [UN Connections](#) » UN Connections - Issue No. 58

UN Connections - Issue No. 58

UN Connections

The World Federation of United Nations Associations Newsletter
Issue No. 58 - February 2006

In this issue:

- [Celebrating 60 Years of Collaboration](#)
- [Global Civil Society Champion: Mr. Olara Otunnu](#)
- [UN Partnerships: Implementing the Millennium Declaration](#)
- [Who's Who at the UN](#)
- [What's Happening at the UN](#)
- [WFUNA Highlights](#)
- [Inside Global Civil Society: How it Networks](#)
- ["We the Peoples" Forum](#)

Celebrating 60 Years of Collaboration



The year 2006 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. The 22 founding United Nations Associations (UNAs) proclaimed in their constitution that they believed that "peace must be found, if it is to not fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of all peoples". They stated that the primary objective of WFUNA is "to be a peoples' movement for the United Nations".

Over the years, UNAs have been established in over 100 countries all over the world, and new ones are still being formed, most recently in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Haiti. The Executive Committee is composed of 18 UNA representatives who serve in their personal capacity. Since the Committee first met in 1946, 188 meetings have been held - an average of about 3 times a year over 60 years. The principal decision-making organ of the Federation, the Plenary Assembly, has been convened 37 times - and will meet again in November this year.

Successive UN Secretary-Generals have praised the role of WFUNA, many echoing the sentiments in this statement by UN Secretary-General, Dag Hammerskjöld, to WFUNA's 12th Plenary Assembly in 1957: "I wish... to express my appreciation of your most essential service. At the same time, I wish to urge you to fresh endeavors. Over the years you have accomplished much and have acted with an ever increasing sense of your great responsibilities."

The UN General Assembly has adopted resolutions expressing appreciation for the

IN THIS SECTION

[News and Events](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Press Releases](#)

[Global Civil Society
Champions](#)

[Featured UNAs](#)

[UN Connections](#)

» [UN Connections - Issue No. 53](#)

» [UN Connections - Issue No. 54](#)

» [UN Connections - Issue No. 55](#)

» [UN Connections - Issue No. 56](#)

» [UN Connections - Issue No. 57](#)

» [UN Connections - Issue No. 58](#)

» [UN Connections - Issue No. 59](#)

[Research & Publications](#)

[Past WFUNA Meetings](#)

Federations' efforts; for example in 1986 resolution 41/68 concerning questions relating to information dedicated an entire section to commending the efforts of WFUNA and UNAs around the world for their 'mobilization of popular support for the programs and work of the United Nations.

During the 20th century, WFUNA conducted a fund raising program based on the sale of first day covers of UN stamps and lithographs produced by artists and celebrities, such as Picasso, Lou Zheng Jang, Miro, Salvador Dali, Ruben Leyva, Al Hirschfeld and Andy Warhol to promote the ideals of the UN.

Now in the 21st century, WFUNA is committed to strengthening the effectiveness of all the UNAs in their various initiatives, and to finding new ways to give voice to the people of the world.

In 2005, the focus was on the 60th anniversary of the UN. WFUNA and member associations celebrated UN Day with a colorful variety of distinctive and valuable events. This year is our year; it is a time to reflect on the achievements of WFUNA and to strengthen our collaboration in support of a more effective United Nations.

Global Civil Society Champion: Mr. Olara Otunnu



Mr. Olara Otunnu has been immersed in the United Nations system for decades. He is a self-described vagabond, who has worn many hats: as a lawyer and Professor, Foreign Minister in his birth-country of Uganda, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the UN, President of the International Peace Academy, and most-recently, as UN Under Secretary General for children in armed conflict. Under his leadership, the UN Security Council unanimously passed the historic resolution 1612, instituting formal and comprehensive compliance measures for the protection of children. Mr. Otunnu's latest venture combines his academic, governmental, UN, and civil society experiences. In the fall of 2005 he established the LBL Foundation for Children, an independent, international institution, devoted to promoting protection, hope, healing and education for children in communities devastated by war. The Sydney Peace Prize and German Africa Prize awarded to Olara Otunnu in 2005 and 2002 respectively served as catalysts for the formation of LBL.

In an interview with the Editor of UN Connections, Mr. Otunnu addressed two issues that he would like WFUNA and UNAs to give high priority to. First, is the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1612. Mr. Otunnu explained that "civil society organizations, especially UNAs can play a very important part in supporting this regime for the protection of children, by working together with the UN Secretariat and specialized agencies and bringing pressure to bear on offending parties. The second issue that Mr. Otunnu expressed deep concern about was the genocide unfolding in Northern Uganda today. "Civil society leaders have a responsibility to inform themselves about this, break the silence, and campaign to end the genocide." Mr. Otunnu explained.

UN reform, especially the new concept of the "Responsibility to Protect", the interaction of governments and civil society and the power and potential of youth are all issues of interest to Mr. Otunnu. He emphasized the unique role that NGOs and youth groups can play in developing linkages, providing insight and expertise, as well as supporting the UN in its endeavors. Mr. Otunnu's message for 2006 is, "this is a time when we should be thinking beyond our usual preoccupations, and reaching out to those who need our voice and action".

UN Partnerships in Action: Implementing the Millennium Declaration

"Freedom From Want": The Development Agenda

5th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Fifth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will take place from 15 to 26 May 2006 at UN Headquarters. The theme of the Forum will be "The Millennium Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples: Re-defining the MDGs". The Forum serves as an advisory body to ECOSOC with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues within the areas of expertise of the Council relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC may participate in the work of the Forum as observers. Further information and registration forms are available at the following link, aimed at facilitating the participation of NGOs, IPOs and other interested entities, [click here>>>](#)

Sign-up for **UNESCO's free education newsletter**, and receive updates about education plans and policies around the world, women's education, and other related issues. This month's issue features the story of a new women's center in Palestine. [Subscribe here>>>](#)

"Freedom From Fear": The Security Agenda

Election of Judges to the ICC

On 26-27 January 2006, during a resumed meeting of its fourth session, the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court (ICC) will elect six judges. The nomination period closed on 20 November 2005, and 10 candidates from the following countries have been nominated: Hungary, Burkina Faso, Germany, Finland, Ghana, Samoa, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Bulgaria and Latvia. For the most current list of nominees and their CVs, [visit here>>>](#)

The **NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)** is an independent NGO movement dedicated to the establishment of the International Criminal Court as a fair, effective and independent international organization. The Coalition is committed to upholding the Rome Statute principles of competence and fair regional and gender representation. The CICC will promote the nomination and election of the most highly qualified candidates through a fair and transparent process and will oppose any political reciprocal agreements. Visit the CICC website to get the NGO perspective on the upcoming elections: www.iccnw.org

"A Sustainable Future": The Environmental Agenda

International Forum on Climate Change

FEDRE, the European Foundation for the Sustainable Development of the Regions, in collaboration with the UN, and international and regional NGOs is organizing a European Forum: "Climate Changes: Energy and Mobility" to be held in Geneva from 23 to 27 January 2006. For more information see: www.fedre.org

6th Session of UNFF

The 6th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) will be held at UN Headquarters from 13-24 February 2006. The UNFF's role is to promote "the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end".

Organizations representing major groups that are accredited with ECOSOC or the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) are encouraged to participate in UNFF Sessions. A multi-stakeholder dialogue is part of the regular UNFF sessions, usually a full day during the first week of the session. This dialogue provides an opportunity for discussion between State members and representatives of major groups on issues relevant to UNFF sessions.

For instructions on participation, go to: www.un.org/esa/forests/participation.html

"Renewing the UN": The Institutional Agenda

The UN is planning to have at least 3 Hearings with Civil Society in 2006:

Member states have positively valued the Hearings that were held in June 2005 with

civil society and the private sector and plans are being made to have at least 3 hearings this year on the following issues: HIV/AIDS, Migration, LDCs

Below is a link to a **survey that was prepared by the Millennium NGO Network and the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)**. The aim of the survey was to receive feedback from participants who took part in the General Assembly informal interactive hearings held last June, and build on the attendees' experiences and knowledge in the organization of future Hearings.

GA Draft Resolution Approved on Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

The World Summit Outcome Document reaffirmed full implementation of the 2001 General Assembly Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. Following several informal consultations in early December 2005, the GA adopted a new resolution on 23 December that "decides to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress achieved" in reaching the Declaration's targets. This review session will be held from 31 May to 1 June of 2006 and will be followed by a high-level meeting on 2 June 2006, which aims to maintain the engagement of world leaders in the global response to HIV/AIDS. In preparation for this high-level meeting, there will be a hearing with civil society between 31 May and 1 June. For further information, please visit www.reformtheun.org

For the link to the application form, [click here>>>](#)

Who's Who at the UN

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres, has announced the appointment of two new Assistant High Commissioners, Judy Cheng-Hopkins and Erika Feller, to oversee the agency's field operations and its international protection work for millions of refugees and others of concern.

Ali Hachani of Tunisia was elected President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2006.

As part of his campaign of UN reform, Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed a panel of independent experts to explore redesigning the UN's system of internal justice. Representing a range of regions and a diverse set of professional expertise, those serving on the Panel will be: Justice Louise Otis of Canada, Ahmed El-Kosheri of Egypt, Diego Garcia-Sayan the former Foreign Minister of Peru, and Kingsley Moghalu of Nigeria.

What's Happening at the UN

In the final days of December 2005, the General Assembly reached a last-minute compromise on the UN's biennial budget, authorizing the full \$3.79 billion, but appropriating only an initial \$950 million for spending until further reforms were agreed upon and implemented.

The General Assembly resumed consultations on the Human Rights Council on Wednesday, 11 January on the basis of the text provided by the co-chairs in December 2005. The discussions took place a day after a group of over 100 NGOs issued a letter outlining their priorities on the Human Rights Council.

In an attempt to revive the issue of Security Council reform, the African Union and three of the G4 countries - Germany, India, and Brazil (excluding Japan) - tabled similar versions of their previous two draft resolutions from July 2005 for consideration during the 60th session of the General Assembly.

Since the Peacebuilding Commission was established in December, the next steps involve selecting members of the Organizational Committee from each of the five designated categories and setting up the Peacebuilding Support Office within the

Secretariat.

For a summary of the DPI/NGO briefing on the Peacebuilding Commission that took place on 19 January 2006, [visit here>>>](#)

WFUNA Highlights

The 189th Session of the WFUNA Executive Committee will be held from 24-26 March 2006, in New York.

UNAs working together in support of democratic elections in the DRC

Mr. Malcolm Harper, former Director of UNA-UK, sent us the following report from Kinshasa:

"I arrived on Thursday morning (19 January) at the invitation of the UNA of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to help them with a 4-day training program of trainers of election observers. As you know, there was a constitutional referendum here in December which occasioned a turnout of some 82% of registered voters and a very heavy victory in favour of constitutional reform. There will be local, provincial, parliamentary and presidential elections in March-April."

UNA-DRC is one of a number of Congolese NGOs who will be providing observers for the elections. They have already established a working relationship with both MONUC and the National Electoral Commission and the current training program is aimed at a number of UNA members and others who will train observers at the community level. Funds for all this have been generously contributed by UNA-Sweden.



WFUNA Model UN to be hosted by the Indian Federation of UNAs

The Indian Federation of UNAs (IFUNA) will host the Second WFUNA Asia and Pacific Regional Model UN conference in New Delhi, from 9-12 February 2006. The conference will simulate the UN Economic and Social Commission of the Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and be opened by the Executive Secretary, Mr Kim Hak-

Su. . The theme is "The Millennium Development Goals: Strengthening Human Security in Asia". Delegations, composed of 4 university students and a UNA representative are coming from over 10 countries in the region. A capacity-building workshop for UNA representatives will be held in conjunction with the Model UN. For more info, [visit here>>>](#)

GIMUN 2006

Registration is officially open for the 2006 edition of Geneva International MUN (GIMUN), which is a partner of WFUNA. Around 120 students from all over the world are expected to take part in the simulation game that will model a reformed United Nations including an expanded Security Council and a Human Rights Council. To get an idea of what GIMUN 2006 is all about and/or to register please [click here>>>](#) A French version of the website should be available shortly.

Peace Beads Partners with United Nations Association

Peace Beads (www.peacebeads.org) and UNA-USA's Pasadena/ Foothills Chapter (www.unapasadena.org) have initiated a partnership. Peace beads are given by one person to another in the spirit of peace and freedom and are part of a growing worldwide movement. They are handmade by Native Americans and are a great fundraising source for non-profit foundations, such as the UNA.

ARMUN Follow-up

A Model UN conference creates opportunities for young people to engage with UN issues, learn about different cultures, and become more socially active. In order to extend these benefits beyond the actual event, WFUNA Youth has initiated a "follow-

up" requirement to all WFUNA Model UN conferences. The **African Regional Model UN (ARMUN)** conference was held in September 2005, and the follow-up projects are beginning to take shape. Each delegation was asked to implement a program, such as a smaller-scale Model UN, or an MDG campaign in their home countries, with the support of WFUNA, the host UNA and WFUNA Youth. The following is the first completed project:

ARMUN delegates, Stacey-Leigh Titus and Taariq Kagee (delegates who represented Sweden), successfully completed the first ARMUN follow-up project, by organizing a MUN from 10 to 12 January for the awardees of the Desmond Tutu Peace Center's Emerging Leadership Program. The participants were introduced to the MDGs as well as the work of UNAs. Due to the event's success, the Peace Centre decided to make the MDGs a part of its program.

A detailed report and photos of the follow-up projects will be made available on the WFUNA and WFUNA Youth websites. Brief information about new events will be featured in UN Connections. Best of luck to all ARMUN and APMUN participants in their projects!

Global Civil Society: How it Networks

World Social Forum

The sixth edition of the World Social Forum will be polycentric, which means that it will be decentralized, taking place in different parts of the world, in January 2006. Three cities will host the 6th WSF: Bamako, Mali-Africa (www.fsmmali.org), Caracas, Venezuela -Americas (www.forosocialmundial.org.ve) and Karachi, Pakistan-Asia (Telephone number: 00 (92 21) 824-0716 Fax: (92 21) 824-0714).



Beyond 2005: Your Views Wanted on the Future of GCAP

Launched at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, in January 2005, the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) is now embraced by many active campaigners. Based on last year's growing solidarity across several boundaries that normally divide civil society's campaigning efforts, GCAP is exploring the potential next steps for beyond 2005. The organization is seeking your input in this important process by asking you to complete a questionnaire by 31 January 2006. Download the questionnaire at www.whiteband.org/News/consultation_eng.doc/download. (also available in Spanish and French)

Reporters Without Borders urges corporations to help ensure freedom of expression
On 6 January 2006, Reporters Without Borders issued six concrete proposals aimed at ensuring that Internet-sector companies respect the freedom of expression when operating in repressive countries. The organisation calls on bloggers and Internet users to sign an online petition in support of this initiative. If you are interested, read more and sign the petition, [click here>>>](#)

The Diplomats of the Future: ATHGO Events for 2006

ATHGO (Alliance Towards Harnessing Global Opportunities) International is a nonprofit NGO based in the U.S., whose mission is training, motivating, and inspiring future generations of international professionals to become decision-makers and diplomats with the skills and vision to cope with the rapid changes and challenges of the 21st century. The organization hosts several educational symposia each year, where young people have the opportunity to network with each other and professionals in the field. ATHGO International's Symposia for 2006:
New York | April, Washington, DC | July, Geneva | September, Yerevan | October, Los Angeles | November
For more information, please visit: www.athgo.org

MDG Data on Latin America and the Caribbean

The EQxIS Information System is a database that presents disaggregated estimates for 30 MDG indicators and other related social indicators by gender, region, ethnicity

and income quintiles for 20 countries in Latin American and the Caribbean. The final product is an important contribution to support analytical work, policy discussions, monitoring and dissemination of the MDGs in the region.

Visit the database website at: www.iadb.org/xindicators

What do People Around the World Think About Global Issues?

The Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) launched WorldPublicOpinion.org (WPO) in January 2006 to provide a source of in-depth and up-to-the-minute information and analysis on public opinion from around the world on international issues. WPO seeks to increase understanding of public opinion in specific nations around the world as well as to elucidate the global patterns of world public opinion. Explore world opinion by topic or region at: www.worldpublicopinion.org

ONLY HUMAN Calls on the People of the World to Share Their Vision

ONLY HUMAN is a visual narrative that communicates that although no two people, cultures, or nations are alike, we are all united by our shared human nature. The goal of this photo exhibit and book is to draw on the diplomatic power of the image to promote cross-cultural tolerance, celebrate the unity that can be found within our diversity. The organization is calling on artists from around the world to submit creative works. For more information or submission instructions, visit:

www.onlyhumanexhibit.org

WFUNA is happy to announce that Mr. Raphael Joseph Akiki is the winner of our "end of the year" quiz. He will be receiving one of the new WFUNA T-shirts as a prize. You can find the winning answers at www.wfuna.org.

"We the Peoples" Forum

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 at editor@wfuna.org

[faqs](#) | [wfuna-youth](#) | [contact us](#) | [sitemap](#) | [site search](#) | [privacy](#) | [home](#)

©WFUNA-FMANU
1 United Nations Plaza
Room DC1-1177
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel: (212) 963-5610
Fax: (212) 963- 0447
E-mail: wfunany@wfuna.org



WFUNA - FMANU
c/o Palais des Nations
Room E4-2A
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel +41 22 917 3239
Fax +41 22 917 0185
Email: wfuna@unog.ch

need this site translated? » <http://www.freetranslation.com>