

NEWSLETTER UNAA SA DIV

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FOR OUR LOST NEW ZEALAND FRIENDS
..... AND THOSE FROM JAPAN.

They are not gone who pass beyond
The clasp of hand, out from the strong embrace.
They are but come so close, we need not grope
with hands nor look to see,
nor try to catch the sound of feet.
They have put off their shoes softly to walk by day
within our thoughts,
to tread at night our dream-led paths of sleep.

They are not lost who find the sunset gate,
the goal of all their faithful years.
Not lost are they who reach the summit of their climb,
the peak above the clouds and storms.
They are not lost who find the light of sun
and stars and God.

They are not dead who live in hearts they leave behind.
In those whom they have blessed, they live a life again,
and shall live through the years, eternal life
and grow each day more beautiful
as time declares their good,
Forgets the rest,
and probes their immortality. [Tagore]



U.S. bill would eliminate funds for UN climate panel

U.S. funding for the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change would be eliminated under a House bill passed over the weekend.

The loss of funds for the UN group -- which would total \$2.3 million -- is part of broader Republican reductions in climate funding in the U.S. budget bill, which must be negotiated with the Democratic-majority Senate. [The Guardian \(London\)](#) (2/21)



United Nations

U.S. vetoes Israeli condemnation

A top Palestinian official is pledging to launch a renewed bid to secure the UN condemnation of the continued construction of Israeli settlements after the U.S. veto Friday of a resolution that had garnered the support of all other 14 Security Council members. Palestinians protested the veto Sunday, while observers in the Middle East and elsewhere said the it damaged U.S. credibility as a peace broker in the region.

[Google/Agence France-Presse \(2/20\)](#), [Bloomberg \(2/20\)](#), [The Washington Post \(2/20\)](#)

Stocks of large predator fish tumble, upsetting balance

The world's oceans are experiencing an ecological imbalance due to human overconsumption of large predator fish, experts say, resulting in the overpopulation of small fish, such as sardines and anchovies. Some two-thirds of the stock of large fish has been caught over the past 100 years, with more than half of the decrease occurring over the past 40 years. [The Washington Post \(2/20\)](#) Share: E-MAIL

DEVELOPMENT

Energy & Environment

UNEP urges big spending on green

About 2% of global economic output should be redirected annually to developing a global "green economy," the UN Environment Program says. The object would be to steer about \$1.3 trillion a year away from industries that overuse resources to 10 other key areas. The new investments would help avoid repeated economic shocks from dependence on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse-gas output. [Bloomberg \(2/21\)](#) Share: E-MAIL

MAPW REPORT

Our voices are heard

It is hard to keep track of the number of prominent voices, including current and former heads of state, who are now personally articulating MAPW's core message, the need for nuclear weapons abolition. US President Obama is among them. The work of MAPW and IPPNW has been persistent, consistent and extraordinarily important in the global disarmament movement.

Among the most significant reminders of the importance of our work were the words of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in his book *Perestroika*, about the work of our global organisation IPPNW:

"... What they say and what they do is prompted by accurate knowledge and a passionate desire to warn humanity about the dangers looming over it. No serious politician has the right to disregard their conclusions."

Gorbachev was right. Our knowledge is accurate, and our concern is passionate. Your knowledge and passion for the future of humanity have made a difference.



Sue Wareham

To the Natural Philosopher (Observant Person) there is no natural object trifling or unimportant . . . a soap bubble , an apple , a pebble *He walks in the midst of wonders.* **John Herschel, Astron. 1830 Engl.**

SCIENCE : Islands of knowledge in a sea of Mystery

Prof. Ian Lowe

“Then I felt like some watcher of the skies, when a new planet swims into his ken; or like stout Cortes, when, with wondering eyes, he stared at the Pacific” **John Keats 1816**

“Those to whom the harmonious doors of Science have unbarred celestial stores” **Wordsworth 1794**

SCIENCE WITHOUT RELIGION IS BLIND

***RELIGION WITHOUT SCIENCE IS LAME* A.Einstein**

NOTHING HERE BELOW IS PROFANE FOR THOSE WHO KNOW HOW TO SEE . On the contrary, EVERYTHING IS SACRED

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ

TRUE RELIGION AND NATURAL SCIENCE ARE FIGHTING A JOINT BATTLE IN AN INCESSANT , NEVER RELAXING CRUSADE AGAINST DOGMATISM, AGAINST DISBELIEF AND AGAINST SUPERSTITION **Max Planck c 1928**



“What I see in Nature is a magnificent structure which we can comprehend only very imperfectly, and that must fill a thinking person with a feeling of humility.”

Einstein, in a letter, 1944/5

Corporate Hall of Shame

MONSANTO.....

(Your vote for the WORST corporation in 2010)

The votes are in! You and tens of thousands have voted. And if one thing from 2010 is clear – it's that the nominees for the Corporate Hall of Shame have never been more sinister. From the financial crisis and efforts to block healthcare reform, to climate change and oil spills – some of the world's largest and most powerful corporations were all too willing to undermine human rights and the environment if it meant maximizing profits.



Stacey Folsom
Corporate Hall of Shame
Elections Office

The Corporate Hall of Shame doesn't just elect a winner - it demands change.

Monsanto's reckless promotion of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and its aggressive legal tactics to intimidate and bankrupt local farmers have dismantled countless family farms and local economies. With such abuses Monsanto edged out a competitive list of nominees, garnering 38% of the total votes. The title has earned the agribusiness giant renewed public scrutiny, expanding the grassroots call to label all products containing GMOs.

With your voice, we'll work nonstop to ensure that 2011 is a year beyond corporate greed.

Chevron (the former Texaco arm) has been fined \$8 billion for a series of oil spills in Ecuador. That placed it second, edging out BP (we all know that one). Bayer in Germany and Nestle (Switzerland)are well up the list . . . the former for insecticides that are wiping out the all-important domestic bee population and Nestle over bottled water and and and

OTHER YEARS - OTHER CORPORATIONS

Recall *Bhopal* in India with Union Carbide ?

Halliburton, c.2008, for War and Disaster Profiteering

McDonalds . . . predatory marketing to children Obesity.

Can you think of Any Australian Companies that could compete?

GENEVA Australia Faces the Music

[The Editor is in frequent contact with Edmund Rice International, a "Justice" NGO based in Geneva and with *Observer Status* at the U.N]. In 2010 ERI put in a submission to the UN Human Rights Council as part of the **Universal Periodic Review** (UPR) in Australia. Among the areas of concern raised by ERI were: Treatment of Refugees ; Indigenous rights and Incarceration; Climate Change and Rising Tides on Pacific Islands. (Local ANTAAR made contributions to the first-named)

The Rep, Michael Hitchen, reports : "Thank you again for your grassroots support of a submission to the HRCouncil on Australia's Human Rights. We watched, the day after Australia Day, as Senator Lundy led the Australian delegation through three hours of 'interactive dialogue' with over 54 nations. We were delighted that many of our concerns were voiced, some very explicitly, in the recommendations put to Australia by these countries.

You can read the three final documents that informed the process on www.upr-info.org. In the Stakeholders' report you'll see we get specific mention as JS4 (Joint Submission No 4). That's all your good work.

Brian Bond and Jim Jolley lobbied particular countries here in Geneva during January and it paid off with some well-phrased and timely comments and recommendations. I counted 41/54 countries making recommendations that directly affect our own interests on the ground. Interestingly, only one country (the Maldives) took up our recommendation on reducing Australia's greenhouse gases – but at least it was heard! The biggest support for indigenous issues focussed on the setting up of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (NCAFP) and the Close the Gap Program. But the incarceration of indigenous people was often mentioned - notably by the USA.

There were lots of comments and recommendations on refugees, asylum seekers and irregular migrants (a new buzz word). While some speakers commended Australia for being quite frank in its own assessment of its human rights problems, I personally found Australia's responses on irregular migrants inaccurate and dangerously misleading. I think I heard denial.

So you have done well. There is much more to say, and plenty more to do! For now, be convinced that you have been heard at the U.N. in Geneva. Let's see if Australia was listening "

145 recommendations were made to Australia by 54 countries in this working group report on the UPR on Australia. Australia is now considering these and will respond by June 2011 as to which recommendations it accepts and which it rejects, and which it will consider further. I estimate that at least 30 of these recommendations are very close to what you were asking of Australia, in our (joint) submission.

The next step, once the Government announces its position, is to keep them to it!

M M Hitchen Edmund Rice International, PO Box 104 1211 Geneva 20 Switzerland 8/2/2011

60. Azerbaijan noted Framework. It welcome children rights, including Children. Azerbaijan mac
61. Chad praised Au: rights, affirming that eve fully in the economic, I consultation process in th
62. The Maldives note in political life and ecoi Maldives requested to disproportionately high recommendations.
63. Timor-Leste comi Australians. It welcomed advance indigenous rec encouraged its realizator the protection of huma immigration detainees be:
64. The United States prohibitions against dispr national origin, especially about planned new initi: detention for foreign traf. processing centre outside
65. Jordan appreciated of human rights, partic progress in that regard. Jo
66. New Zealand state CRC would assist in imf law prohibiting discrimi: of custodial facilities wo: appropriate. New Zealan: contributing to an under prevention. It made recor
67. South Africa urg: experienced by indigenc Government to engage i participate in the follow- information on the follow an updated comprehensi:
68. In responding to , delegation stated that the to the inherent dignity of realization.

A snippet from the Gap report.



Australia West Papua Association SA

February 2011 Newsletter Extract.

Interview with Franciscus Uweng, Kadam, West Papuan refugee living in Adelaide who attended the recent conference of West Papuans in Port Moresby in December 2010.

AWPA: We are very interested to hear about the conference you attended. Can you tell us who were the participants and where they came from.

Franciscus: There were around 20 people at the conference. It was a representative conference. 15 of the people were WP living in various parts of PNG, the rest from Vanuatu, Holland, Fiji, Australia and Jayapura in WP. Pastor Neles Tebay representing the churches in WP was the person from Jayapura. The conference was held at the uni and went for 3 days. It was funded by the Henry Dunant Centre in Geneva.

AWPA: We believe the conference was mainly called to discuss the lack of progress under the Special autonomy process and the establishment of food estates near Merauke.

Franciscus: In the 10 years since Special Autonomy was introduced there has been no improvement in living conditions. The process was never fully implemented and all decision making is still with Jakarta. Last July the elected representatives of Special Autonomy, the MRP, (Majelis Rakyat Papua) decided to give back the Special Autonomy and there were massive rallies of over 10,000 people.

The new rounds of election for this body have now fallen due and we discussed how to deal with these questions. It is likely there will be a boycott of the elections. West Papuans are now making stronger calls for a dialogue with Jakarta to discuss the questions of development. The conference discussed the form of this dialogue. We want to have about 50 WP involved in the talks and we want to discuss job opportunities, development, improvements in health welfare and education, also land ownership. In regard to the new food estate Indonesia is moving to start. We want compensation, respect for customary law, de-militarisation and to stop spontaneous immigration that threatens our position as the majority occupants of our land.

AWPA: Is the call for a dialogue just another word used for Independence or self determination.

Franciscus: The primary role of this conference was to find unity amongst WP and the best way forward and we did achieve unity at the conference. Already after the conference we can see that the Churches are organised, united and are strongly leading a call for the dialogue to happen. Already the vast majority of WP reject the current situation. The dialogue will be organic. We will have a position and will need to see how the Indonesian Government responds to our demands.

AWPA: Will the Indonesians come to the table or will they continue to stonewall.

Franciscus: There are already signs of movement by SBY. They are agreeing to move towards more rapid development. Sections of Indonesian society are also supporting the call for a dialogue. LIPY, the scientist group is acting as a conduit for initial opening talks. We want to have the talks mediated by a third party. On the other hand if the Government is too slow we will press harder for talks because now is a more political moment to press our case.

AWPA: Are you referring to the proposed food estates in Merauke.

Franciscus: Yes. Indonesia is desperate to have food security. Now they are importing rice. They want to grab all the land and not compensate the customary owners. This land is the livelihood for the local people. We want to find a fair way, such as was used in Biak for the space-port land, that gives us jobs without sacrificing the owners of the land. I was very keen to attend this conference because I am originally from this area and can better inform people about the issues. We used this conference time to work out our position to take back to the people and will now concentrate on developing a strategy to assist our goals in this campaign.



Franciscus
2nd from R

OUR SWORD-FIGHTER

Olympian , Man of Courage, Man of Compassion

James Wolfensohn, a member of Australia's 1956 Olympic Team, became, about 10 years ago, the head of the World Bank. When he was interviewed in 2004 he had these thoughts :

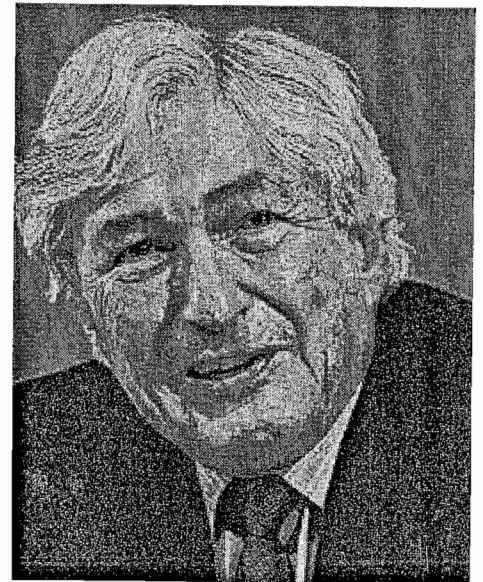
If a Martian were to land here, he was quoted as saying, it would report home that this planet is crazy. A minority on the planet live for today and do not see the majority of poor. The developed countries of the world spend immense amounts on arms but only a fraction on aid. The poverty and despair of many of the 5 billion people in the developing world only help fuel terrorism and extremism.

"I personally feel the world is out of balance," he is quoted as saying. "The way the world is dealing with problems of poverty and peace seem to be disconnected." Military spending worldwide is now probably \$US1000 billion (\$1315 billion), and spending on subsidies or tariffs to protect farmers in the developed world is about \$US300 billion. In comparison, wealthy countries offer no more than \$US50-\$US60 billion in aid to developing countries while blocking most of their agricultural exports – one of the few opportunities these countries have to haul themselves out of poverty.

"There are 5 billion people in the developing world, 3 billion earning under \$US2 a day, and 1.2 billion earning under \$1 a day...If you can't give them hope, which comes from getting a job or doing something productive, giving them their self-respect, these people become the basis on which terrorists or renegades or advocacy groups can flourish. It's an essentially unstable situation.....

...If you cannot deal with the question of hope, there is no way that with military expenditure you can have peace. I think you could spend \$US2 trillion on military expenditure, but if you do nothing about poverty and development you're not going to have stability.

Sir James Wolfensohn
KBE AO FKC



World Bank tenure

Wolfensohn became president of the World Bank on 1 July 1995 after he was nominated by U.S. President Bill Clinton. He was unanimously supported by the bank's board of executive directors to a second five-year term in 2000, becoming the third person to serve two terms in the position after Eugene R. Black and Robert McNamara. He visited more than 120 countries around the world during his term as president. He is credited, among other things, with being the first World Bank president to bring attention to the problem of corruption in the area of development financing.^[7]

Civic and charitable activities

9th President of the World Bank

In 2006, **Wolfensohn** founded the **Wolfensohn Center for Development** [1] (<http://www.brookings.edu/global/wolfensohn.htm>) at the Brookings Institution, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank.^[11] The center examines how to implement, scale up, and sustain development interventions to solve key development challenges at a national, regional, and global level and strives to bridge the gap between development theorists and practitioners. Current projects focus on youth exclusion in the Middle East, large-scale anti-poverty programs, reforms of global economic governance, and regional cooperation, particularly in Central Asia.

Well done Catriona!



United Nations Women Australia is part of United Nations Women worldwide, the United Nations' body for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. Each year, UNWA sends a delegation to attend the Commission on the Status of Women, which is a conference at the United Nations in New York dedicated to addressing issues of gender inequality.

Catriona Standfield of Toorak Gardens has been chosen as the youth delegate to represent Australia.

Gender equality is the theme and with a specific focus on access to, and participation in, education and employment. To work out which issues to put forward, Catriona spoke to hundreds of women aged 13-30 in areas including Blair Athol and Murray Bridge. "The biggest issue I came across was violence against women" she said. A lot of the girls I spoke to have seen it (violence) in their family, affect friends at school and some 14 year olds said it is something they worry about and that is a massive concern.

Catriona is 23 years old and lives in Adelaide, South Australia. She is completing a double degree in Arts and Development Studies and a Diploma of Languages at the University of Adelaide. She is passionate about promoting the leadership and empowerment of young people, especially young women. She currently serves as the International Year of Youth Coordinator for the United Nations Youth Association of Australia. Prior to this, she served as President of the South Australian division. She is also a founding member and Secretary of the Young United Nations Women Australia Adelaide Committee. In recognition of her work, she was awarded the St Vincent de Paul Society's Louise de Marillac Award for Social Justice.

In 2010 Catriona organised a series of public discussion talks in the Universities dealing with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and disarmament. The aim : to raise awareness and promote informed debate in the Adelaide Community. Her role was to plan the series, organise speakers and venues, design the promotional materials and deal with the media. The "*What would Einstein Say*" series was supported by a number of SA C'ty organisations, and a number of influential speakers gave of their time and expertise. (One such was Hon Gareth Evans)

Food for Thought!!

International Aid — A Solution

Quick Summary: Almost all of the deaths from hunger and disease that you see on this site can be stopped. The cost to do this is about \$195 billion a year, according to the United Nations. Twenty-two developed countries below have pledged to work towards each giving 0.7% (a little less than 1%) of their national income in international aid, which would raise the \$195 billion. Some countries are slow to meet their pledge.

2009 International Aid Donated (Official Development Assistance)

COUNTRY	For each \$100 earned in the country, how much is donated in aid	Aid as % of income	How close the country is to reaching the 0.7% goal
Sweden	112 cents	1.12	Already reached goal
Norway	106 cents	1.06	Already reached goal
Luxembourg	101 cents	1.01	Already reached goal
Denmark	88 cents	0.88	Already reached goal
Netherlands	82 cents	0.82	Already reached goal
Belgium	55 cents	0.55	Scheduled to reach in 2010
Finland	54 cents	0.54	Scheduled to reach in 2015
Ireland	54 cents	0.54	Scheduled to reach in 2012
United Kingdom	52 cents	0.52	Scheduled to reach in 2013
Switzerland	47 cents	0.47	No schedule yet
France	46 cents	0.46	Scheduled to reach in 2012
Spain	46 cents	0.46	Scheduled to reach in 2012
Germany	35 cents	0.35	Scheduled to reach in 2014
Canada	30 cents	0.30	No schedule yet
Austria	30 cents	0.30	Scheduled to reach in 2015
Australia	29 cents	0.29	No schedule yet
New Zealand	29 cents	0.29	No schedule yet
Portugal	23 cents	0.23	Scheduled to reach in 2015
United States	20 cents	0.20	No schedule yet
Greece	19 cents	0.19	Scheduled to reach in 2015
Japan	18 cents	0.18	No schedule yet
Italy	16 cents	0.16	Scheduled to reach in 2015

Only six countries have not yet set up a schedule to give 0.7%. These are Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the United States. To raise the \$195 billion a year, these six will need to reach the goal. These six countries are all democracies. All that is necessary for them to reach the 0.7% goal is for enough of their citizens to show their support.

Sources: UN Millennium Project, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), The End of Poverty (Jeffrey D. Sachs), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Seeking 'Biodiversity Justice'

Civil Society Releases Top 10 Concerns at UN Convention on Biological Diversity

(Nagoya, Japan, October 18-29, 2010)

Nagoya, October 13, 2010. The CBD Alliance (Convention on Biological Diversity Alliance) has released a briefing highlighting ten of civil society's most pressing concerns to be discussed at the upcoming 10th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. Almost all of the world's governments will gather in Nagoya, Japan to debate, negotiate, and hopefully take decisive action for life – both human and non-human – on earth.

The media briefings, which can be viewed and downloaded at <http://undercovercop.org/top-10-for-cop-10/> focus on what many civil society groups believe will be the contentious issues at the Nagoya negotiations this month.

"Biodiversity lies at the very heart of the most serious challenges facing the planet today", says Helena Paul, co-Executive Director of Eco-Nexus, UK. "If we want to tackle food insecurity and cope with climate change, we have to start with biodiversity".

"According to the UN, we've lost 75% of the world's crop and livestock varieties - and continue to lose more each day. We're in a crisis of biodiversity, losing species we have not even seen yet", says Paul. "We can't afford to lose any more of the diversity that helps us create, innovate, and be resilient to shocks. This is the wealth of our planet, this is what feeds people. Let's be clear - biodiversity is essential to maintain the ecosystems humanity has relied on for the last ten thousand years. It's a matter of survival and we have to act now."

Moreover, the Convention should do more to highlight the key role of those who protect biodiversity and use it sustainably, says Chee Yoke Ling, Director of the Malaysian based Third World Network, "There's so much at stake here for the world's small scale farmers, fishers, and indigenous peoples. They're at the frontlines of preserving biodiversity, and knowledge of that diversity".

"Industrial expansion and new techno-fixes are hurting them, and taking their ability to preserve diversity and make a living. Their future is our future, and they need biodiversity justice", says Chee Yoke Ling.

Biodiversity justice is a central theme in the 'Top10 for COP10' briefing, according to Canadian Jessica Dempsey, co-ordinator of the CBD Alliance. "We want to highlight what's really at stake these negotiations, and the fact that food producers and civil society organizations have a key role to play in Nagoya".

Civil society brings the expertise and voice of those who are not always represented at intergovernmental conferences, says Dempsey. "We help convey the stories about ecological devastation, corporate theft, wrong-headed governmental policies, and the spiraling decline of both cultural and biological diversity". Hundreds of civil society groups from the Global South and the North will be present in Japan to ensure negotiators face up to some of the most pressing issues for the equitable and socially just survival of life on this planet.

The Top 10 Issues for COP 10 include: [1] Future of the CBD: taking biodiversity from the margins to the centre; [2] Finance, economic instruments and biodiversity; [3] The Nagoya Access and Benefit Sharing Protocol; [4] Climate change, geoengineering and biodiversity; [5] Ending deforestation through socially just measures, not markets; [6] Fuelling biodiversity loss: biomass for biofuels, bioenergy, biochar and the technologies of the new bioeconomy; [7] Urgent political will needed to make sustainable use a reality; [8] Agricultural biodiversity feeds the world!; [9] Bringing equity to protected areas; [10] Upholding Indigenous Peoples Rights and Supporting Traditional Knowledge.

Download them all at [\[http://undercovercop.org/top-10-for-cop-10/\]](http://undercovercop.org/top-10-for-cop-10/)



[The following letter, at the request of the Executive, was sent to Glen Woodward to acknowledge Glen's contribution over so many years.]

20 January 2010

Dear Glen,

At our Executive Committee meeting last night we sought to record our great appreciation for your efforts over so many years in support of the UNAA(SA Div). You rather caught us by surprise at our December meeting with your resignation, and we had no chance to say to you how much your involvement has been appreciated over the years.

You added a very special touch to our meeting each month with your rose or other flower piece for the table. It was so very much appreciated.

Your wide range of friends and acquaintances in Adelaide has meant you have been able to assist in so many ways when networking, and having the right contact has been an essential element in trying to get any event off the ground. Then your meeting and greeting skills have been unsurpassed, and something we will most definitely miss. Your ability to make visitors and strangers feel their presence is appreciated, and that we are really pleased to see them has really helped us so much over the years. Also we must also record your willing efforts to be our urbane drinks waiter at almost all our recent functions has helped to develop such a happy and friendly atmosphere at all our events.

We are especially appreciative of you representing us at the UN Day observances and the Peace Keepers Service at the War Memorial—particularly with your most appropriate roses.

Looking back over past annual reports we recently noticed that you were the Education Department Liaison Officer to the UNAA (SA Div) in 1976 through to about 1970. So it is for over forty years you have been serving the UNAA in various capacities. This makes you by far the member of our committee whose long term involvement with UNAA extends back into our history where so many other familiar names appear. Names recording service which over the years has been so supportive of UNAA and our goals.

We wish you well in your well deserved "retirement", and express the hope that on appropriate occasions we will remain in contact.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Southcott AM
President.

John Crawford
Vice-President

- [International Year of Forests \(2011\)](#)
- [International Year for People of African Descent \(2011\)](#)
- [International Year of Chemistry \(2011\)](#)
- [Decade of Action for Road Safety \(2011-2020\)](#)
- [International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust \(27 January\)](#)

This site contains information on United Nations days, weeks, years, decades and other observances, resolutions declaring them and links to events websites.

United Nations observances are used to contribute to the achievement of the purposes of the UN Charter and promote awareness of and action upon, important political, social, cultural, humanitarian or human rights issues. They provide a useful means for the promotion of international and national action and stimulate interest in United Nations activities and programmes. For international years and decades the UN Secretary General takes action to establish preparatory process, evaluation and follow-up procedures.

The majority of observances have been established by the UN General Assembly and some have been designated by UN specialized agencies.

In 1950, the General Assembly approved the first international day — Human Rights Day — to be observed on 10 December. [Resolution 423 \(V\)](#) invited all states and international organizations to observe this day to celebrate the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948, and to exert increasing efforts in this field of human progress.

In 1978, the General Assembly by its [resolution S-10/2](#) proclaimed the first international week — the week starting 24 October (the day of the foundation of the UN) — as a week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament (Disarmament Week).

The first international year was proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1959. It was the World Refugee Year [[Resolution 1285 \(XIII\)](#)].

The first UN decade was the United Nations Development Decade designated by the General Assembly in 1961 [[Resolution 1710 \(XVI\)](#)].

Every year the United Nations Department of Public Information issues a press release [United Nations Conferences and Observances](#) that contains a list and description of all the events for current and ensuing years.

"Will most people throughout the developing world still be left out of the new 'universe' Of Mobile Phones and the Internet, while the industrialised world, with a few enclaves in The South, rushes further and further ahead, using even newer technologies that none of Us here has yet heard of?"

Kofi Annan c.2004

"A common form of fear is one that masquerades as common sense or even as wisdom, condemning as foolish, reckless, insignificant, or futile the small daily acts of courage which help to preserve self-respect and human dignity".

Aung San Suu Kyi (BURMA)