



# UNAI NEWSLETTER

Sharing  
a Culture  
of Intellectual  
Social  
Responsibility

**August - September 2015**

## **The United Nations at 70: A historic year**



As reported in the last edition of the UNAI Newsletter, this is a very special year for the United Nations marking 70 years since its establishment in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations. Many commemorative events are taking place to mark this important occasion, including a concert at UN Headquarters in New York to celebrate UN Day through music on 23 October.

The General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 193 Members of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. The 70th session was opened on the 15th September with expressions of optimism for a historic year in which the international community adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is expected to reach a universal agreement on climate change. Speakers also recognized the turmoil of peace and security, and migration challenges.

Speaking after the conclusion of the 69th UNGA, on 14 September, Mogens Lykketoft (Denmark), incoming UNGA 70 President, said the UN Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda "marks only the beginning," stressing the responsibility of UNGA 70 to deliver on promises for sustainable development.

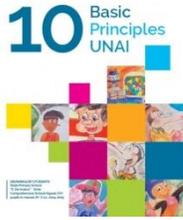
## **The Second UNAI START Forum**



On the 11th September, the second seminar in the START (Skills and

Technology Accelerating Rapid Transformation) series focused on anticipating and responding to disasters. Panellists from around the globe congregated to present ideas and projects with the aim of raising awareness of present and future initiatives of sustainable disaster preparedness and management.

Featured speakers included Professor Mukhametbetkall Burkitbayev who presented on 'sustainability averting disasters'. Patrick San Francesco presented 'construction from recycled plastic bottles proven to sustain a 9.8 earthquake', and Courtland Robinson PhD spoke on 'more harm than good? The problem of ineffective aid'. Susan Davis discussed 'BRAC: Poverty and global health in the face of a disaster, entrepreneurship and economic resilience', and Martin Kropac and Hana Petrik talked about 'Strengthening cities for disaster management'. If you missed the session you can watch the entire seminar on Un Web TV at <http://bit.ly/1OaVxWj>



## Italian School Children Illustrate the 10 UNAI Principles

The European Institute Pegaso, a member of the United Nations Academic

Impact, has produced a [beautiful illustrated booklet](#) of [10 Principles of the UN Academic Impact](#). The 10 Principles were illustrated by primary-school aged children.

## Public Health in the post-2015 Development Agenda: A new series of articles



25 September was a historic day at the United Nations because the [Global Goals for Sustainable Development](#) were adopted by UN Member States. UN Academic Impact is launching a new series of articles that take a closer look at what is being done, and what can be done, by research institutions and schools of public health to advance Global Goal 3: "[Good Health and Well-being](#)."

Each week UNAI will post an article that looks at an important aspect of public health from palliative care to care in indigenous communities. This introduction to the series from UN Academic Impact intern Zinnia Batliwalla explains the important role of public health in achieving the Global Goals:

### *Public Health in the post-2015 Development Agenda*

Health is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, but it is the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being according to [the](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#). Ensuring a healthy population is integral for economic progress, poverty reduction, equity and sustainability.

It is evident that health is critical to sustainable development, and therefore must be a focus of the General Assembly now that they have adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs - and also known as "Global Goals") in September 2015. The SDGs have replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which expire on 31 December 2015. Since the adoption of the MDGs in 2000, extreme poverty has declined significantly, primary school net enrolment has increased and improvements have been made regarding maternal and child health. The Global Goals will build upon the momentum of the MDGs and seek to end poverty and inequality, and address climate change for a better world.

Given that health is crucial for sustainable human development, United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) has requested four schools and departments of public health at UNAI member institutions to submit articles highlighting research and work relating to the SDGs to showcase the importance of public health in the post-2015 development agenda.

Each week, an article from public health researchers across the world will be posted on the UN Academic Impact website following the adoption by United Nations General Assembly of the Global Goals this September.

## The International Day of Peace



On 21 September, the annual International Day of Peace commemoration took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York, beginning with the traditional Peace Bell

Ceremony. Messengers of Peace Michael Douglas, Jane Goodall and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock joined Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the President of the General Assembly Mogens Lykketoft in ringing the Peace Bell and observing a moment of silence. Speaking at the event, the Secretary-General noted that "We are a small crowd here, but we are joined by thousands

of people at the United Nations – officials and students, activists and artists, corporate CEOs and community leaders. All of us are resolved to work for peace.”

The student videoconference, which took place immediately afterward, empowers young people to participate in building a culture of peace by offering them a platform to present their ideas and projects on peace-related issues. Over 700 high school and university pupils joined the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth Ahmad Alhendawi for a moving performance by United Nations Messenger of Peace Yo-Yo Ma. The Secretary-General was interviewed by SNAPCHAT, which created a special feature for the Day. His wife, Yoo Soon-taek, led the students in observing a moment of silence at noon, as was done at many United Nations offices and peacekeeping missions around the world.

In the spirit of this year’s theme: “Partnerships for Peace – Dignity For All”, the Education Outreach Section in the Department of Public Information and members of the NGO community worked together to organize this event. Lebanese students and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) participated via videoconference as well as students from the United Nations International School who performed a rendition of Michael Jackson’s “Heal the World”. To the delight of the audience, Jane Goodall was introduced to a very special guest named Lexy, a Canine Partner serving with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security Canine Unit. Michael Douglas urged students to take an active role in promoting peace in their communities.

The three-hour celebration was filled with engaging music, presentations and speeches with Zuhail Sultan, founder of the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq, acting as youth moderator. An array of impressive student presenters spoke about their projects for peace. Peace projects ranged from the promotion of human rights to a mentoring programme for women of colour in the Bronx. A demonstration on the peaceful uses of Taekwondo took place in both Lebanon by peacekeepers from the Republic of Korea, and in New York, with lively audience participation ensured by the World Taekwondo Federation.

To conclude the student observance, in commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, a flag ceremony illustrating when Member States joined the Organization was held. Video footage of both the Peace Bell Ceremony and the student videoconference is available on the [International Day of Peace website](#).

From UN iSeek

### **Events for November: WFUNA International Model United Nations (WIMUN) and UN DPI Model UN Workshop**



The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) is pleased to invite you to the second annual WFUNA International Model United Nations (WIMUN) programme. WIMUN is an extraordinary intellectual student seminar that brings together an amazing assortment of young minds from around the world to engage in cultural exchange, gain first-hand experience of negotiating process, and improve their knowledge of the UN system while enhancing their awareness of the most relevant international issues.

Over 700 young students coming from all over the world will attend WIMUN, an event with high symbolic value of education to international and intercultural dialogue. Students have a unique opportunity to improve their debating and negotiation under the simulation of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Sixth Committees.

This second edition of the conference will take place in New York City, USA from 10 to 14 November 2015. WIMUN is the most accurate and realistic simulation of the United Nations and features intensive training workshops taught by UN officials on UN4MUN (the official Model UN platform introduced by the UN), briefings on important agenda items by UN Agencies and internationally renowned experts, and conference

sessions at the United Nations Headquarters. For more information, please visit the [WIMUN website](#).

The year 2015 does not only mark the 70th anniversary of the UN, but also puts the organization at a crossroads. The Millennium Development Goals, set out in 2000, are set to expire at the end of this year. It is expected that 17 Sustainable Development Goals will be adopted in September 2015 at the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Agenda. During WIMUN 2015, participants will have the unparalleled opportunity to engage in the Post-2015 process at the United Nations while the world's top diplomats debate the exact same issues alongside them in the UN Headquarters during the 70th session of the General Assembly. The conference theme "Global Transformation: The Sustainable Development Goals" and the selected issues on the agenda challenges all participants to engage actively with the Post-2015 Agenda and the SDGs and make a strong and meaningful contribution to the ongoing dialogue.

WIMUN is being organized in conjunction with the [United Nations Department of Public Information Model UN workshop](#) that will take place in New York from 6 to 9 November. Students who want to participate in both programs are welcomed to do so but must register separately for each. WFUNA independently charges a fee for participation its Model UN programme. Please note that there is no cost to participate in the UN4MUN workshop organized by the Education Outreach Section, Outreach Division, United Nations Department of Public Information. You can find more information on WIMUN, together with details of [how to register here](#).

### **Compete in the People's Voices Challenge!**



The Peoples' Voices Challenge offers individuals or organizations the opportunity to access the data collected through Global Conversation and to communicate findings to decision-makers as well as the general public.

Participants serve as a powerful link between the United Nations and the people in working towards achieving the proposed Sustainable Development Goals. This could be done by organizing a policy event, a social media rally or youth debates. The competitors will be able to access the MY World Dataset which showcases the results of [MY World Survey](#): the United Nations Survey for a Better World. The results from the Global Conversation have already informed Member States and United Nations discussions about the future development agenda, including the proposed Sustainable Development Goals.

Competitors in the contest will be assisted by resources and suggestions on how they can contribute. The winners will be honoured with the coveted Peoples' Voices Award at a ceremony which will be held during the UN General Assembly in September 2015 in New York.

Make your voice heard; contribute your share to a sustainable tomorrow! For more information visit the [Peoples' Voices Challenge website](#).

### **Upcoming events**

- 5 October: [World Teachers' Day](#)
- 5 October (first Monday in October): [World Habitat Day](#)
- 11 October: [International Day of the Girl Child](#)
- 16 October: [World Food Day](#)
- 20 October: [World Statistics Day](#)
- 24 October: [United Nations Day](#)
- 30 October: [UN Academic Impact J. Michael Adams Lecture and Conversation Series](#)
- 10 November: UN Academic Impact 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 10 November: [World Science Day for Peace and Development](#)
- 16 November: [International Day for Tolerance](#)

Learn more about UN International Days on the [United Nations website](#).

## New e-Resources

**United Nations Television (UNTV)** produces award-winning programmes covering the wide range of issues addressed by the United Nations system of organizations for broadcast and online viewing. These programmes may be used to anchor lessons, to launch classroom discussions or to introduce panel presentations. Some of them are currently in use in classes and in textbooks for language and business courses.



### **21st Century monthly news magazine**

<http://bit.ly/1VlLphy>

Programme No. 106: This episode is dedicated to marking the United Nations' 70th anniversary and includes an in-studio interview with Ian Martin, Executive Director of the influential publication Security Council Report.



### **UN in Action short feature series**

<http://bit.ly/1YN4h8j>

- The UN Secretaries-General: Through the Lens of Two Photographers (5'18") (#1487)
- Central African Republic: The Forgotten Crisis (5'01") (#1488)
- Concerto for Uniting Nations (4'53") (#1489)
- Republic of the Congo: A Garden for Hope (5'13") (#1490)

### **UN Audio Channels App for Mobile**

Stay in the loop when 150+ Heads of State and Government converge on United Nations Headquarters in New York to speak to the world. The UN Audio Channels app (for [iOS](#) and [Android](#)) gives you access to live audio from UN General Assembly and Security Council meetings as well as the daily news and weekly programmes from UN Radio.

## Why join UNAI

We welcome new members to UNAI. Find out some of the benefits of membership [here](#):

- a. It is a global network of schools of higher learning and research, now comprising over 1,000 members in some 120 countries. As a collaborative platform, UNAI members learn from each other and enhance each other's skills and tools.
- b. As a member, you will have direct access to the United Nations Academic Impact, an initiative of the UN Secretary-General, and be able to use United Nations resources.
- c. You will be able to use the logo of the United Nations Academic Impact on your website and in promotional materials, thus raising your institution's visibility and international profile.
- d. You will be able to request assistance in connection with any activity in support of UNAI.
- e. You and your students can join, either in person or via the internet, in "Classroom Conversations" organized by UNAI at UN Headquarters.
- f. You can request briefings/interactive presentations on UN themes by United Nations experts.
- g. As a member, you are required to submit a periodic activity report, which is then uploaded on the UNAI website. As your activities become better known among UNAI global membership and beyond, your institution's international profile enhances.

Sounds interesting? Find out more at [academicimpact.un.org](http://academicimpact.un.org)