

UNITY

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Compiled from Federal parliamentary and other sources relevant to Australia's obligations to the United Nations.

November/December 2008

575

Editor: Judy Cannon - 07 3358 2623

Email: judycnnn@yahoo.com.au

Contributing Editor: Ian Mathews - 02 6281 4025

Email: ian.mathews7@bigpond.com

Unity and Supplement can also be accessed at: <http://www.unityunaa.info/>

Earlier editions of UNity 2004-05, 2006 and 2007 are on the

UNAA website: www.unaa.org.au or email the editor.

COMMENT

A BIG THANK YOU – WE DOFF OUR HAT UN AND ITS FRIENDS PRODUCE MIRACLES IN 2008

Any review of the work of the United Nations, its agencies, fellow NGOs and friends achieved during 2008 has to say they have wrought miracles.

This year has seen outbreaks of conflict, with thousands of people fleeing – leaving everything to save their lives. There have been devastating environmental disasters, including flooding, hurricanes and earthquakes. Fighting and famine in Africa have escalated to alarming levels and show little sign of resolution. There have been other arenas of extreme conflict, loss and heartbreak.

Time and again the United Nations, the World Food Program, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, with many other arms of the UN and allied non-government organisations, have turned up swiftly with practical help and resources. Few people, except those involved in the work, would have much perception of the enormous workload, the cost, the difficulties – both physical and political - these agencies have regularly faced to bring relief to desperate people.

Aid workers in these operations at times find themselves under physical attack or deliberate obstruction. Any person who week by week reads about their work in often incredibly difficult conditions and circumstances - for example, in Myanmar/Burma – has to be amazed at their resilience, initiative and dedication. Please join me to doff our collective hat to them.

There are always things still to be done, targets yet to be reached and criticisms about the UN, its work and need for reform. There always will be.

This year UN members have not always responded as hoped: one example is the unfulfilled need for enough peacekeepers to monitor situations as in Darfur . Another has been an overall reluctance to put hands in pockets to buy food for people currently starving in Africa and elsewhere. There have been late UN dues payers, such as the United States . With a new US president there is hope for new ways. And under pressure from the gallant US Better World Campaign and others, the old guard had started to pay up. Derisive comments about the UN in Australia have abated with a change of government.

Despite hiccups, the important thing is that the UN is still there after over 60 years, still operating on a daily basis, still coming to the rescue of distressed people. The scope and complexity of the crises the UN, its agencies and friends have dealt with during 2008 are reflected in the following outlines, as seen through issues of UNity. Hopefully it will prove a useful resource. As we move into our festive season, we are lucky to be able to relax in the knowledge that the work of the United Nations goes on.

So festive greetings to all aid workers and: Hats off!

– Judy Cannon

APPRECIATION AND FESTIVE GREETINGS

This is the last issue of UNity for 2008. It is time again to send grateful thanks to all those contributors who regularly send information for inclusion in UNity. The wider the range of our contributors, the broader the information can be published. Special thanks also to webmasters Don Francis (who logs UNity issues on the UNAA website) and Crispin Cannon (who maintains UNity website) and to readers who have taken time to show support and appreciation for UNity. It will be back in January 2009.

Greetings for the coming festive season and every good wish for 2009

A Quick Scan of UN and World Events in 2008

The final 2008 issue of UNity takes a glance at some of the United Nations and international events and statements during the year. Items are listed under the usual page headings, such as Climate Change. Details, together with dates and sources, can be checked against issues of UNity listed by Issue Number and Date at: <http://www.unaa.org.au/>

UNity's Quick Scan of UN and World Events in 2008

The final 2008 issue of UNity takes a glance at some of the United Nations and international events and statements during the year, as reflected in issues of UNity. Items are listed under the usual page headings. Details, together with dates and sources, can be checked against issues of UNity listed by Issue Number and Date at: <http://www.unaa.org.au/>

UNITED NATIONS & AGENCIES

January 25/534

Ban Ki-moon took over as UN Secretary-General and was dismayed over lack of progress on arms treaty. He also notes terrible toll of intolerance

UN: Global economy 'to slow down'; UN agrees two-year budget of \$4.17 billion

BWC urges US to pay up on UN dues

IRAN-UN powers reach agreement on IRAN resolution

AFGHANISTAN Karzai: 'more needs to be done to combat terrorism'

February 9/536

AUSTRALIA to engage more with UN: Stephen Smith

World Bank warns **ARAB** education lagging

EAST TIMOR: UN starts handing power to local police

TAIWAN schedules referendums on UN membership

February 16/537

UN action needed 'to save children from war abuse'

February 22/538

Urgent need for more peacekeepers in **DARFUR**

UN estimates 2.5m victims of human trafficking

February 29/539

UN flag flies into trouble and space

Security Council scolds **ERITREA**

March 7/540

Eight ways for **AUSTRALIA** to back the UN

UN mediation team formed to be on stand-by

March 14/541

US campaign calls for Bush to pay \$1.5B owed UN;
faltering support hampers peacekeeping

March 20/542

Robert Hill: 'UN increasingly important in globalised world'
UN envoy dispatched for CYPRUS talks

March 28/543

Agricultural neglect in ASIA puts 'millions in poverty'
UN: 'Afghanistan could do better'

April 4/544

AUSTRALIA to bid for Security Council seat
Rudd and Ban in talks

April 11/545

AUSTRALIA backs JAPAN and INDIA for Security Council

April 18/546

Security Council urges firmness over LEBANON
Ban sees force for good in AU/UN cooperation

April 24/ 547

Thousands at UN for annual Indigenous peoples' meeting
Pope: 'If countries don't guarantee protection, world must intervene'

May 2/548

Ban leads action over food crisis
IMF changes offer 'new legitimacy'

May 16/550

BURMA: UNAA urges Australian Government to act

Ban may call summit on BURMA: CHINA estimates 50,000 earthquake dead

May 23/551

Ban persuades BURMA to allow in all foreign aid workers

May 30/552

Amnesty International challenges world leaders to apologise for six decades of human rights failure. Treaty to ban cluster bombs agreed

June 6/553

PM Rudd calls on ASIAN AND PACIFIC nations to form regional alliance like the European Union

June 13/554

IRAQ: UN weapons inspectors submit final report. 'AUSTRALIA can lead nuclear disarmament push': Evans, co-chairman of the new nuclear disarmament commission.

PM's proposal for an Asia-Pacific community includes INDIA, CHINA AND US

June 20/555

Poor sanitation In ASIA-PACIFIC affects about 190m people. In SOUTH-EAST ASIA and the PACIFIC about 75,000 children will die this year from diarrhoea: Report

June 27/556

UN Representative for TIMOR-LESTE says UN sees key role in East Timor for countries such as Australia .

July 4/557

\$10B disaster relief fund to help developing countries cope with natural disasters and to help promote world economic stability. US Congress approves \$665m for UN and international organisations, critical funding to help the US erase more than 20 per cent of its unpaid UN bills.

July 11/558

G8 Summit ends with climate 'vision' but no commitment

July 31/559B

Call for UN to take bold, decisive, fast action on SOMALIA

August 8/560

HIROSHIMA mayor calls for total abolition of nuclear weapon

August 15/561

Changing political climate in both the US and Australia (means) the capacity for constructive multilateral action is starting to increase again: UNAA National President John Langmore at UNAA National AGM.

August 15/561

Ban appoints Patricia O'Brien of Ireland as the new UN legal chief, making her the first woman in the UN history to hold the post.

August 23/562

2008 UNAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

August 23/562

Attacks on aid workers have increased in both ferocity and frequency, 'demonstrating militants hold them responsible for political decisions': Conference speaker

August 23/562

UNAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The entrenchment of UN principle R2P that incorporates a right to intervene when governments engage in genocide was a necessary means to enable future action to prevent genocide: UNAA National President John Langmore

August 29/563

Seven leading industrialised nations jointly condemned **Russia's decision to recognise Georgia 's breakaway regions. **GEORGIA:** The question of recognition of states is a matter for sovereign states to decide: Ban**

September 5/564

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer – September 16

The remarkable story of the ozone layer ... (shows that) Decisive multilateral action on environmental threats and challenges can bring wide-ranging health, social and economic benefits: Ban

International Day of Peace – September 21

Marking 60 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Mr Ban wrote, "... too many people around the world still have their rights violated ... That is why we must ensure that the rights in the declaration are a living reality."

September 19/566

New 63rd General Assembly President calls for democratisation of the UN

September 26/567

UN: Rudd calls for tougher world financial regulations. Australia-UN Parliamentary Group established

October 3/568

Calling for UN General Assembly democratisation, the GA president stressed the need to restore power "usurped" by the Security Council to other organs of the world body.

October 11/569

UN World Court to rule on GEORGIAN claim against RUSSIA

October 17/570

Governor-General of Australia Quentin Bryce to be UNAA patron

UN millions in a lather: About 200m people from 70 countries mark UN Global Handwashing Day

October 31/572

Ban in Philippines on four-nation Asia tour to India, Nepal and Bangladesh

October 31/572

SBS and ABC TV both take three awards apiece in 2008 UNAA Media Peace Awards

October 31/572

Some big NGOs are laying off staff or revising programs for 2009

November 7/573

Ban hopes for new era of US-UN partnership with OBAMA

November 7/573

President-elect Obama has the opportunity to engage with the world and renew US leadership at the UN, writes US Senator Timothy E. Wirth and the UN Foundation.

November 7/573

Professor Ron McCallum has been elected one of 12 to the first monitoring committee for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at New York .

CLIMATE CHANGE

January 25 2008 534

CHINA unveils water protection, clean-up plan

EU announces mandatory emissions reduction plan

Shipping rules 'needed' as Arctic ocean opens

INDONESIA asks about climate change /forests money

February 9/536

Medium-term emissions trajectory by end of 2008: AUSTRALIA

World's forests under attack

GM crops costly, Canadian warns

February 16/537

Climate change calls by developing nations: CHINA.

Tiny nations seek climate help at UN

February 22/538

AUSTRALIA urged to go beyond 60% emission target

Global warming could 'kill everybody'

February 29/539

Chinese market requires green credentials

March 7/540

Agriculture likely to suffer loss

UN agency calls for climate change programs

March 14/541

Ban warns on rising price of food-

AUSTRALIA gathers support over Japanese whaling

March 20/542

AUSTRALIA should have emission trading scheme 'up by 2010': Garnaut

World's glaciers melting at record rate: UN

March 28/543

Earth Hour March 29 - the big switch off

Australian climate change plan 'by October'

April 4/544

World waits for answers: Ban

Pacific nations face rising sea levels

April 11/545

WHO warns over future poverty and disease

Work begins for COPENHAGEN meeting

April 18/546

CHINA and AUSTRALIA to co-operate

UN calls for reform of farming

April 24/ 547

UK expert says he underestimated threat

May 2/548

Global warming link to rainfall decline in SE AUSTRALIA

Ban calls for energy efficiency in ASIA PACIFIC

May 16/550

New study adds to climate change warning

AUSTRALIA could 'help reduce global GHG emissions'

May 23/551

Blair to lead team for climate change global deal backed by CHINA AND US

May 30/552

Billions wasted by paying developing countries to reduce emissions: analyses.

June 6/553

Transport sector 'should lead' on climate change: UN official

UN urges world to break carbon addiction

June 27/556

UN President: Climate change is forcing people around world to leave homes or countries because of increased flooding, droughts and disease

July 4/557

Garnaut: 'Climate change is a diabolical policy problem'

July 11/558

Put shoulder to wheel on emissions: Rudd. We must act now: Garnaut

August 8/560

SE Australia's natural forests are among most carbon dense in the world and store three times more carbon: ANU

August 8/560

CHINA is world's leading producer of energy from renewable sources - on way to overtaking developed countries in creating clean technologies.

August 15/561

Switching from beef to kangaroo burgers could significantly help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions: Australian scientist.

August 23/562

Ban announces the UN and Samoa plan to establish an Inter-Agency Climate Change Centre to coordinate support for **Pacific Island** countries.

August 29/563

Analyst warns of looming global climate wars: the prospect of global wars driven by climate change is not something often discussed publicly by our political leaders: analyst.

September 5/564

Garnaut criticised for recommending soft pollution reduction target. Ban stresses need for a Post-Kyoto Treaty deal agreement in December.

September 19/566

With media interest in climate change waning, cooperation from all sectors of society essential to tackle the crisis: Ban

September 26/567

A \$100m global institute to speed up the development of carbon capture and storage technology announced by **Australian PM**

October 3/568

Garnaut Review examines climate change impacts on Australian economy, costs of adaptation/mitigation, and international negotiation. New **UK** study: World must take drastic action in 2 years to reduce greenhouse-gas pollution to avoid worst effects.

October 11/569

Ban warns the fight against climate getting could get bogged down by shorter-term problems, such as the current global financial turmoil

October 17/570

Business leaders told Rudd Government they do not want emissions trading scheme delayed in response to the global economic crisis

October 24/ 571

BAN calls on EU leaders to take urgent action on climate change

October 24/ 571

A UN-backed 'Caring for Climate' meeting drew delegates from 150 corporations, civil organisations, governments to discuss business solutions and speed up action.

October 31/572

Australian Treasury modelling paves way for 'scientifically and internationally credible 2020 pollution reduction targets': independent Climate Institute.

HUMAN RIGHTS

January 17/533

AUSTRALIA Former minister's 'egregious error' over visa
DR HANEEF 'Welcome to return to hospital'

HREOC: Villawood detention conditions 'still a disgrace'

Increasing **CHRISTMAS ISLAND** detentions no solution

HREOC received 1779 complaints in one year

Removing gag clauses welcome first step for NGOs

IRAQ new study estimates 151 000 violent Iraqi deaths

January 25/534

Sexual assaults increase in **KENYA**

IRAN - punishments draw fire from human rights advocates

US military base in **AFGHANISTAN** a sizeable prison

GUANTANAMO hearings lack full justice: UN rights expert

SRI LANKA - human rights warning as ceasefire ends

January 31/535

Held six years - appeal for **AFGHAN** asylum seekers

CHINA: crackdown on dissent pre-Olympics

BRITAIN: sweeping new terrorism law proposals

February 9/536

Australia's Pacific solution ends

Visas for **AFGHAN** asylum seekers

Spy 'government warned over **HABIB**';

Barrister cleared of misconduct

Equality for gay employees

US expands sanctions against **MYANMAR**

UN committee slams **SAUDI** women's lack of rights

February 16/537

AUSTRALIA: Tears flow as PM apologises to Indigenous peoples

Pearson calls for compensation

BAN reacts to **MYANMAR** referendum plan

Water-boarding: UN chief torture investigator criticises **US** GOVERNMENT

Islamist-Target **HIRSI ALI** seeks French protection

February 22/538

UN rights experts welcome Australian apology

GAZA AND WEST BANK conditions 'getting worse'

February 29/539

UN campaign to stop violence against women

welfare payments quarantine starts

March 7/540

Women want a seat at **PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI** negotiations

Women's equality 'stagnated'

March 14/541

BURMA/MYANMAR: Monks 'tortured and killed'

March 20/542

Dalai Lama asks world leaders to press **CHINA**

UN team arrives in **EAST TIMOR**

March 28/543

**Chinese intellectuals brave government retribution
Ban speaks out against modern slavery**

April 4/544

BEIJING jails activist

UN to back disabled peoples' rights

April 11/545

HR body to examine records of all countries

- women still face worldwide bias

April 18/546

Amnesty reports on death penalties -

Secret trials for Afghans alleged

April 24/ 547

1000 Zimbabweans flee every day

UN challenges treatment of refugees in **GREECE**

May 2/548

HANEEF 'hasn't ruled out' inquiry appearance

US prosecutor: HICK'S case flawed all along

May 16/550

Closing the 17-year-gap for Indigenous people

May 23/551

FBI agent says HABIB endured 30hr interrogation

May 30/552

UN officials call for AUNG SAN SUU KYI release

June 6/553

UN rights chief 'alarmed' at erosion of terror suspects' rights

June 13/554

MUGABE orders NGOs out

Wide ranging inquiry into immigration detention criteria called: AUSTRALIA

June 20/555

UN Human Rights Council condemns 'systematic violations of human rights' in **MYANMAR
and calls for stop to political arrests and release of political prisoners**

June 27/556

MSF calls again for **THAILAND and **LAOS** to stop forced repatriations of Hmong
refugees**

July 11/558

Two months after a cyclone savaged the fertile Irrawaddy Delta, in **BURMA 'S
south-west, the bones of drowned victims still clutter banks of waterways**

July 19/559

**The new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the South African judge
Navanethem Pillay, has spent a lifetime toppling barriers and exceeding
expectations.**

August 8/560

Statement by former Gold Coast doctor Mohamed **HANEEF documenting how
terrorism allegations hurt him and his family available to Clarke inquiry: lawyers**

August 15/561

How do you eliminate slavery and human trafficking? Abolitionists across the globe tackle question head on, collaborating via the Internet

August 23/562

Australia's leading human rights organisations call on the PM to adopt a package of human rights initiatives to put human rights back at the centre of government concerns.

August 29/563

Marking International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, UNESCO's chief appeals to member states to renew efforts to end all forms of oppression.

September 5/564

OHCHR urges IRAN not to put juvenile offenders to death.

PAKISTAN opens investigation into 'honour' killing of five women in "centuries-old tradition".

September 19/566

Race Discrimination Commissioner Tom Calma called for Australians to be involved in a discussion about freedom of religion and belief.

September 26/567

UN expert on human rights in MYANMAR welcomes release of 7 political prisoners

October 3/568

MYANMAR cyclone victims need sustained help: UN group. After first boat arrives in during Rudd Government, asylum activists hope they "are treated more decently..."

October 17/570

AUSTRALIA under pressure to wind back hard-line intervention into NT

October 24/ 571

UNHCR issues recommendations on detention. Entrepreneur spends 8 years in Villawood

October 31/572

Women around world still endure violence, abuse and discrimination: independent UN human rights expert.

PEACE & SECURITY

January 25/534

EAST TIMOR facing 'enormous challenges': Ban

UN Rights Council raps ISRAEL over GAZA blockade

KENYA: UN reports 10 hacked to death

DRC peace pact signed

COLUMBIA - 2,000 flee armed groups UNHCR.

NORTH KOREA: neighbours look to thaw relations
January 31/535

Ban: Penalise countries using child soldiers

HAMAS blows **ISRAELI** strategy on **GAZA** border

AFGHANISTAN: Ex-Pakistan military head 'time for troops to go'

KARZAI: 'We have to end extremism'

DARFUR peacekeepers' mission acceleration agreed

CONGO: voluntarily returning Congolese hit 50,000: UNHCR

February 9/536

EAST TIMOR: UN and **Fretilin** discuss security reform

Cluster munitions – New action for world treaty

UN official criticises **US** for defending water-boarding

Funds for overseas aid research

February 16/537

EAST TIMOR state of emergency

Charges against **GUANTANAMO SIX**

Ban: cluster bombs treaty under negotiation in **New Zealand**

Two million need help in **SOMALIA**

February 22/538

EAST TIMOR and **AUSTRALIA** 'united to protect democracy'

Greater role for Pacific nations in RAMSI

March 7/540

HAMAS attend peace talks

GAZA hospitals struggle to help many wounded

AFGHANISTAN 'must do more' over drugs

March 14/541

UN: **AFGHAN** anti-government elements 'far from defeated'

March 20/542

'Considerable' progress against terrorism

IRAQ five years later

March 28/543

Praise for **PALESTINIAN** and **ISRAELI** leaders.

Bush silent on troop numbers for **IRAQ**

April 4/544

NATO focuses on **AFGHANISTAN**

PM wants strong contribution from **CHINA**

April 11/545

DARFUR violence 'getting worse'

World calls over **ZIMBABWE** election

Talks reported between **IRAN** and **US**

ISRAELI leaders shun **Carter**

April 24/ 547

ZIMBABWE: Tsvangirai seeks UN and AU intervention

ISRAEL silent on **HAMAS** proposal

May 2/548

Australia delivers nuclear disarmament statement
Small arms trade danger to peace: UN official

May 16/550

Fears of a new nuclear arms race grow
ICRC urges strong treaty on cluster munitions

May 23/551

UN counter-terrorism force needs better funding
EAST TIMORESE celebrates 6th year of independence but future uncertain

May 30/552

Desmond Tutu calls Israel 's blockade of the **GAZA STRIP** an 'abomination'.

July 4/557

Taliban militants have safe haven in tribal belt to undermine government of Afghan
President Hamid Karzai, a key Pakistani official claimed

June 13/554

FATAH and HAMAS invited to talks

Ban sends top UN official to a **ZIMBABWE** beset by deadly political violence.

June 20/555

ZIMBABWEAN violence threatens credibility of new polls: Ban

June 27/556

UN Security Council condemns **ZIMBABWE**: Impossible for a free and fair election

August 8/560

Dismissing US, BRITAIN , **FRANCE** position that **IRAN** had missed deadline to
review incentives package for dismantling nuclear program, Russia argues for more
time.

August 8/560

CAMBODIA'S deputy military chief says detachment of Thai soldiers has pulled back
from second ancient temple on disputed border land

August 15/561

CHINA: If 2008 Olympic Games opening ceremonies lavished grand tribute on
Chinese civilisation, there was also message to the world: Do not worry. We mean
no harm.

August 15/561

The ICRC launched a preliminary appeal for \$7.4m to meet emergency needs of
people affected by the armed conflict involving Georgian, South Ossetian and
Russian troops.

August 23/562

Ban appeals for restraint by conflict parties in southern **PHILIPPINES** between
Muslim rebels and government troops. **GEORGIA** UN official assesses humanitarian
efforts

August 29/563

In Darfur UNAMID condemned "excessive, disproportionate use of lethal forces" by
Sudanese security forces against civilians in raid inside displaced persons' camp.

September 5/564

THAI PM refuses to resign and lashes out at protesters besieging his offices .
PHILIPPINES: ICRC rescues 900 civilians as Mindanao Island conflict worsens.

September 26/567

INDIA and PAKISTAN to kick-start peace talks

October 3/568

EU monitors begin GEORGIA mission

October 11/569

Peacekeeping force in Darfur , which has struggled to find enough countries willing to supply troops and equipment, to reach two-thirds of full deployment by 2008 end: Ban

October 17/570

Ban expressed deep concern over CAMBODIAN-THAI border dispute.

October 24/ 571

UN political official hopes talks, as launched last year in Annapolis, US, between ISRAEL and PALESTINE will continue

October 31/572

Cluster Munition Coalition calls on South East Asian nations to show solidarity with LAO PDR AND CAMBODIA and to sign Cluster Munitions Convention to ban cluster munitions worldwide.

November 7/573

Senior military officers from 50 countries met in Geneva to put international humanitarian law into simple language so it can be understood in conflicts worldwide.

November 7/573

UN agencies step up their efforts to aid people displaced by violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as fighting resumes in rebel-held territory in NORTH KIVU. The ceasefire seems to hold in Goma.

MEDIA MATTERS

January 17/533

Impunity (over actions) against the media continues in ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

AFGHANISTAN: Journalist faces death penalty

January 25/534

64 journalists 'killed worldwide in 2007'

ASIA-PACIFIC regional meeting of journalists and unionists

PHILIPPINES Journalists and media technicians file petition for government protection

NEPAL The hand of a freelance journalist, Manoj Sah, was cut off in eastern Nepal

January 31/535

AFGHAN journalist sentenced to hanging

February 9/536

AUSTRALIAN media blackouts ruled out

June 13/554

Ex-prime minister Fraser criticises world media for not having done enough to expose background of BUSH AND BLAIR decisions to go to war in IRAQ.

June 20/555

Ban unveils memorial to journalists on top of BBC Broadcasting House

October 24/ 571

The death sentence on a young journalist overturned in Kabul .

November 7/573

'Wowser government to censor Australian internet', says Civil Liberties Australia .

HEALTH & MEANS

January 25/534

UNICEF: Child mortality rates fall but challenges remain

UNFAO Chief: Food prices to keep soaring

HIV 'outpaces WHO ability': UNAIDS and WHO

KENYA: WFP distributes food to nearly 77,000 people

AUSTRALIA: Rural people 'face adverse health effects'

Dengue fever kills over 400 in **CAMBODIA**

WFP warns of hurdles to food aid in **MYANMAR** because military's tight controls

January 31/535

UN official urged countries to put UN Convention against Corruption into action

February 9/536

WHO: Tobacco industry 'targets developing world'

INDONESIA affected by Avian flu

Longer HIV drug treatments help infants

Illegal organ trade dupes world's poor people in **BRAZIL, ROMANIA AND INDIA**

UN warns another massive opium poppy crop coming

February 16/537

MSF says women in pregnancy/childbirth dying 'unnecessarily'

February 29/539

Call to limit world population

UN agencies back end to female mutilation

March 7/540

Health care workers 'the true lifesavers'

Australian doctor honoured

March 14/541

Health summit to work on closing Indigenous 'gap'

March 20/542

Statement of intent for Indigenous health signed

March 28/543

WFP funds reel under rising food costs

Major success with polio but untreatable TB to spread

April 11/545

Leaders to discuss world food shortages

April 18/546

Ban warns food crisis may affect security

Bush releases \$200m for food

April 24/ 547

WFP says high food prices are a 'silent world tsunami'

May 2/548

UN bodies unite to tackle food crisis

May 16/550

First meeting of world food crisis taskforce

May 23/551

World has knowledge to fight food crisis: [ECOSOC](#)

[May 30/552](#)

Major breakthrough for public health to benefit many millions for many years: WHO

[June 6/553](#)

[BURMA/MYANMAR](#) Aid deliveries improve but workers still challenged

[June 27/556](#)

WHO creates new surgical tool 'safe surgery saves lives'

[July 19/559](#)

Millions of [Afghans](#) are sliding further into need just as increasing attacks on aid workers are preventing aid deliveries, aid groups warn.

Australian doctor launches midwifery training to prevent fistula in [ETHIOPIA](#)

[August 8/560](#)

While child survival in [ASIA and the PACIFIC](#) – where half of the world's children live – has improved considerably, deepening economic disparities have meant that the region's poor are often unable to access proper health care.

[August 8/560](#)

WHO launches a package of priority interventions designed to help low- and middle-income countries move towards universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care.

[August 23/562](#)

A study by the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention has found the rate of suicide among farm workers is more than double than that of the rest of the population.

[August 29/563](#)

The toxic combination of bad policies, economics, and politics is in large measure responsible for majority of people in the world without good health which is biologically possible: WHO

[August 29/563](#)

The World Bank warned world poverty is much greater than previously thought. It now says that 1.4 billion people live in poverty, based on a poverty line of \$1.25 per day.

[September 5/564](#)

WHO report: It's not expensive to prevent repeated suicide attempts: 85% of suicides occur in low and middle-income countries.

Games in new subjects for [FreeRice web](#) phenomenon: The FreeRice web vocabulary phenomenon turns to art, maths, language and chemistry.

[September 26/567](#)

Governments, foundations, businesses and civil society organisations announced significant new commitments to meet the Millennium Development Goals

[October 24/ 571](#)

Gap between the rich and poor widens: OECD

[October 31/572](#)

The global financial crisis provides governments worldwide with opportunity to put health, equity and sustainability as focus of government policy, says researcher

[OTHER NEWS](#)

[January 25/534](#)

Sports help refugee children deal: UNHCR and [SPANISH](#) Primera Liga giants

[THAI](#) return to democracy welcomed by Australia

[January 31/535](#)

Three MSF staff killed in **SOMALI**

February 9/536

2020 summit seeks **AUSTRALIA'S** future

February 16/537

High food prices around world prompted some countries to cut import tariffs

February 29/539

RUSSIAN freedom of speech 'shrinks'

March 7/540

Fire leaves 8000 **BHUTANESE** refugees homeless

Agonising wait for women

March 14/541

Agonising wait for women

PNG'S new vision for **PACIFIC** partnership

April 4/544

AUSTRALIA looks for new relationship with **EUROPE**

April 11/545

BRITAIN has plan to help **ZIMBABWE** economy

June 20/555

MYANMAR: 'Military obstructed aid but no starvation'

July 19/559

US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, joined counterparts from **Pacific** island nations to press **FIJI'S** coup leaders to revive plans for elections next year.

July 31/559B

US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, joined her counterparts from **Pacific** island nations in **Samoa** to press **FIJI'S** coup leaders to revive plans for elections next year.

August 23/562

UNAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE BRISBANE

The entrenchment of UN principle R2P that incorporates a right to intervene when governments engage in genocide was a necessary means to enable future action to prevent genocide UNAA National President John Langmore tells Socratic Forum

September 26/567

BUSH: Entire economy in danger: Both parties in the **US Congress** reached agreement on the outline of a \$700bn (£380bn) bail-out plan

October 3/568

US House approves bail-out on second try

October 31/572

The poorest of the world's poor deserve immediate support to help them endure the global financial crisis: Ban and top UN officials

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

January 25/534

Court decision on whaling goes to **TOKYO** office

January 31/535

Ban calls on world leaders: Water crisis a top priority

BRAZIL announces series of measures to stop alarming rise in Amazon deforestation

February 9/536

Crop losses in **SOUTH ASIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA** predicted

February 16/537

NORWEGIAN whaling criticised

February 29/539

Lobbying continues on nuclear and cluster weapons

May 16/550

Ban: Agriculture needs 'reinvigorating' to produce enough

May 30/552

Rangoon meeting raises \$233M. Follow-up on **MYANMAR** and **CHINA** catastrophes

July 19/559

Thousands in **MYANMAR** still suffering: UN reports

July 31/559B

Attacks on aid workers endanger help for **AFGHANS**

July 31/559B

Nearly three months after deadly Cyclone Nargis struck **MYANMAR**, thousands of children and adults still in need of critical humanitarian assistance: UN report

August 23/562

Hot rock industry stakes a claim: Using just one per cent of **AUSTRALIA'S** so-called 'hot rocks' could produce 26,000 times the amount of energy now used each year.

September 5/564

UN: Three million uprooted and 60 die in worst flooding in **NE INDIA AND NEPAL** in five decades.

September 19/566

UN nuclear watchdog said it had reached impasse with **IRAN** over its refusal to account for past military research. **RAMOS-HORTA** calls on Australia to help repel toads

October 3/568

IAEA Chief: Nuclear states set example for others

October 11/569

Fish and seafood endangered says CSIRO

October 24/ 571

UNESCO will publish the first **WORLD MAP** of underground aquifers of freshwater resources.

October 31/572

The world is heading for an ecological credit crunch as human demands on the world's natural capital reach nearly a third more than earth can sustain: WWF

November 7/573National briefing on harsh drought realities **Australia** faces