



United
Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division

UN Matters

Mar Apr 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year has got off to an excellent start. The programme we have put in place for the year is being fleshed out and all our committees are hard at work in getting this ambitious plan executed. We had our first members networking session in March and the feedback we got from all present was that more of these events should be held. We have taken this feedback on board and are already planning the next session. Watch out for the announcement.

I am also pleased to announce that the WA division of UNAA has been asked to be the national lead for the UNAA's Human Rights programme. We have put together an exciting plan which includes a series of Introduction to Human Rights Café sessions (Human Rights 101), a focus on refugees, discourse on diversity and social equity, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and gender equality. This programme is being run by our Human Rights committee under the able leadership of Fadzi Whande and we are convinced that we have a great opportunity to make a real difference to the Human Rights agenda in Australia. This includes our support for Australia taking up a position on the United Nations Human Rights Council next year. If you are interested in volunteering in this exciting area then contact Fadzi at fadzi@whandegroup.com.

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We are also making progress in spreading the message about the SDG with our Education committee doing a great job in expanding our Global Citizenship Programme at local schools. We would encourage you to 'recruit' your local school into this exciting and inspirational programme – for details contact Rees Barrett at reesanne@bigpond.com. I have also done a few presentations on the SDGs recently – these are available on our website as tools for all of us to spread the message that the SDGs belong to all of us and that every individual can make a contribution to achieving them.

Our Environment committee is progressing well with its plan of action and is planning a beach clean-up day and a forestry event in the near future. We have a new chair in Beatrice Hamilton (hamilton.b@icloud.com) and a new Deputy Chair in Terry Visser. Please join me in welcoming them to the UNAOWA and I look forward to seeing a vibrant portfolio of environmental actions under their leadership.

Finally, planning for our UN Day celebration is getting underway with Vanida Lennon taking on the coordination role. This year we will be using the occasion to recognise contributions to our key focus areas by individuals and organisations. Save the date – 27 October 2017 and watch out for exciting announcements relating to the awards for that evening. The Teacher of the Year process has already started and our other committees will be starting processes to find deserving candidates for awards in the near future.

See you all at our next member and volunteers networking session!

Steve Lennon, UNAOWA President





UN OBSERVANCES

May 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2 May

[World Tuna Day \(A/RES/71/124\)](#)

3 May

[World Press Freedom Day \(UNESCO 26 C/Resolution 4.3\)](#)

8-9 May

[Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War \(A/RES/59/26\)](#)

10 May

[World Migratory Bird Day \[UNEP\]](#)

10 May

["Vesak", the Day of the Full Moon \(A/RES/54/115\)](#)

15 May

[International Day of Families \(A/RES/47/237\)](#)

17 May

[World Telecommunication and Information Society Day \(A/RES/60/252; ITU Resolution 68/2006\)](#)

21 May

[World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development \(A/RES/57/249\)](#)

22 May

[International Day for Biological Diversity \(A/RES/55/201\)](#)

23 May

[International Day to End Obstetric Fistula \(A/RES/67/147\)](#)

29 May

[International Day of UN Peacekeepers \(A/RES/57/129\)](#)

31 May

[World No-Tobacco Day \[WHO\] \(WHA Resolution 42.19\)](#)

June 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

1 June

[Global Day of Parents](#) (A/RES/66/292)

4 June

[International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression](#) (A/RES/ES-7/8)

5 June

[World Environment Day](#) (A/RES/2994 (XXVII))

6 June

[Russian Language Day](#) (Russian)

8 June

[World Oceans Day](#) (A/RES/63/111)

12 June

[World Day Against Child Labour](#)

13 June

[International Albinism Awareness Day](#) (A/RES/69/170)

14 June

[World Blood Donor Day](#) [WHO] (WHA Resolution 58.13)

15 June

[World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#) (A/RES/66/127)

16 June

[International Day of Family Remittances](#) (GC 38/Resolution 189)

17 June

[World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#) (A/RES/49/115)

19 June

[International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict](#) (A/RES/69/293)

20 June

[World Refugee Day](#) (A/RES/55/76)

21 June

[International Day of Yoga](#) (A/RES/69/131)

23 June

[United Nations Public Service Day](#) (A/RES/57/277)

23 June

[International Widows' Day](#) (A/RES/65/189)

25 June

[Day of the Seafarer](#) [IMO] (STCW/CONF.2/DC.4)

26 June

[International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking](#) (A/RES/42/112)

26 June

[United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture](#) (A/RES/52/149)

27 June

[Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day](#) (A/RES/71/279)

30 June

[International Asteroid Day](#) (A/RES/71/90)

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE KEY UN CAMPAIGNS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2017

1. SDGs

Broad umbrella campaigns to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) at all possible opportunities to raise awareness and to help people understand why they matter. An element of this is to show how people can make their own contributions.

2. High Level Political Forum

This will be held at the UN in early July. Forty four countries will be reporting on what they have done towards meeting the SDG. The UN will also publish its annual report on SDG progress. This is a good point in time to promote the SDGs and the progress being made.

Learn more: www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org/

3. Promoting Climate Action

There needs to be ongoing efforts to keep the momentum of the Paris Agreement going. This links into the SDGs. Future negotiations will focus on developing the Paris Agreement “rule book”, but at a local level the message that we need to adjust our lifestyles to meet the target of a no more than 2°C temperature rise needs to be constantly enforced.

Learn more: www.unfccc.int/paris_agreement/

5. Peace & Security

A priority of the new SDG is prevention. There are many opportunities to promote this through the year, especially using International days. No broad campaigns are ongoing from the UN in this area, although a major report on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse has been released.

Learn more: www.undocs.org/A/71/818

5.
Oceans
(& Goal 14)

A major conference on Oceans will be held June 5 – 9 in New York City at the UN. As an island, this has direct relevance to Australia. UNEP are running a major campaign on plastics and other ocean debris. Other issues such as fisheries and biodiversity will also feature.

Learn more: <https://oceanconference.un.org/>

6.
TOGETHER

TOGETHER is a global initiative that aims to change negative perceptions and attitudes towards refugees and migrants, and to strengthen the social contract between host countries, communities, refugees and migrants. The core values of the UN and the determination to “leave no one behind”, which is at the heart of the Development agenda, are at the centre of TOGETHER.

The initiative comes out of the Summit for Refugees and Migrants held on 19 September 2016, and will run until the second half of 2018, when Member States are expected to adopt two Global Compacts on Refugees and Migrants.

A key element of the campaign is to use the stories of migrants as vectors for the campaign message. Both UNIC and IOM are working on building a collection of these and posting them via websites and social media. Events have also been organized promote the themes of the campaign.

Learn more: www.together.un.org/

7.
Gender, Youth

Emphasis on empowerment of both gender and youth. The continuing drive for equality and inclusion in decision making should be promoted and a constant thread through all outreach efforts.

8.
UN Reform

This is on the agenda and we can expect to see more on this as the year progresses, although it may not feature as a campaign per se.

100 WOMEN ANNOUNCES FADZI WHANDE AS NEW AMBASSADOR



www.100women.com.au

100 Women is delighted to announce the appointment of our newest Ambassador, Fadzi Whande.

Fadzi Whande is a dynamic, engaging and award-winning international speaker, author, social justice advocate and champion for encouraging dialogue as a means of understanding difference.

A skilled facilitator in the areas of unconscious bias, gender inequality, and racial socialisation and identity, her work primarily focuses on addressing systemic and institutionalised barriers held towards historically undermined groups.

"I believe there is no such thing as a bad investment when it comes to women, for investing in them is investing in our future."

Over the course of her career she has been the recipient of various awards and accolades including the 2016 International Racial Equity Leadership Award in Austin, Texas; 2016 finalist for the Australian Human Rights, 'Racism it Stops With Me' Award; 2015 Australian National Committee for UN Women's member delegate to the Commission on the Status of Women in New York; 2014 National Community Ambassador Award from the Celebration of African Australians; and in 2013 was appointed a People of Australia Ambassador by the Federal government.

Fadzi is the Human Rights Chairperson for the UNAAWA and was recently appointed an Ambassador for Water for Africa, and the Humanitarian Group. She currently serves on the National White Ribbon Diversity Reference Group and the Western Australian Police Multicultural Women's Advisory Group.

Fadzi received her Graduate Certificate in Social Impact and Executive Master's in Business Administration from the University of Western Australia.

Why Fadzi supports 100 Women

Women seem to face more of the burden when met with life challenges and barriers. I believe that 100 Women plays a significant role in empowering women across the globe by promoting capacity building and support through a variety of initiatives. I believe there is no such thing as a bad investment when it comes to women, for investing in them is investing in our future.

I love what 100 Women stands for, because it not only creates platforms, opportunities and resources for the empowerment of women, but more importantly, it unites us as part of a global movement of change makers.

Why is philanthropy so important

Philanthropy is important because it is the vehicle that sets ideas, programmes and innovation in motion. It allows diverse groups of people, who would most likely never have the opportunity of meeting or interacting, to partner and collaborate together.

Without philanthropy we would have limited access to education, technological advancement, medicine, research and some of our most basic human rights.

I believe that in one way or another each person has benefited in some form from philanthropic giving whether it's the hospital they were born in, the school or university they attended, or even the gadgets they play with -- all of these places and things have benefited from philanthropic giving. It is the oil that keeps the human engine running and it is huge part of humanity and has been in existence for centuries.

Views about the state of philanthropy in Australia

I believe with organisations like 100 women and other giving circles, philanthropy in Australia is no longer only limited to High Net Worth (HNW) individuals but has become more appealing to everyday Australians.

As Social Impact Investing (SSI) is becoming more widespread, people will start aligning their purpose and passion. Fundamentally I believe the opportunity to give back is a rewarding one for all who commit to it.

Although the number of individual giving seems to have decreased the amount that is being given has increased.

I believe that the landscape is changing and my hope is that philanthropy in Australia will become a huge part of Australian life and encouraged from an early age.



*“Fundamentally
I believe the
opportunity to give
back is a
rewarding one for
all who commit to
it.”*

Republished with permission from:

www.100women.com.au/introducing-fadzi-whande-our-newest-ambassador/

HUMANITARIAN ADVISORY GROUP



WHY DO A (PAID) UN INTERNSHIP?

One young humanitarian's perspective on the benefits of interning at the UN



Credit: Humanitarian Advisory Group

By *Emma Jidinger*

Entering the humanitarian work force can be more than challenging. Truthfully, it can be ridiculously difficult! To secure a job you need a university degree, as well as field and professional experience you can discuss in your job interview.

Understandably, it can be easy to lose faith as a young professional when even entry-level jobs require a master's degree and a

minimum two-years' relevant work experience. So how exactly do you get the experience that will help score you a job?

One path to professionalism is to undertake an internship or traineeship that will give you direct insight into the work of an organisation, and valuable expertise in a certain field. However, for many young graduates an unpaid, or very-

little-paid, internship may not seem like it's really worth it, or might not even be financially possible. Many will wonder if they'll even gain enough experience to validate working for free, and whether they'll really be given any real responsibility.

The answer to these queries is not straightforward, and is ultimately dependent on personal circumstance. Writing as a relatively privileged young humanitarian who can afford to slave away for little-to-no money, I will share with you some of the reasons I am more than happy that I chose to support the Emergency Services Branch (ESB) of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva, as an intern.

In the Midst of Action

The UN makes up an integral part of the humanitarian system, and thus makes a valuable starting point for anyone wishing to enter the sector. If location is key, being in the central hub of international humanitarian action simply cannot be wrong. Taking on a short term role at the UN has allowed me access to many interesting forums and discussions, which have not only opened my eyes to the many alternative career paths I may take, but also provided me with great networking opportunities. By simply being at the UN you meet a wide range of interesting people, representing everything from the N to the G to the O, as well as national representatives, intergovernmental bodies and individual consultants.

At the least, Palais des Nations is a door-opening environment, where you may very well meet your future employer.

Speaking the Lingo

During my short stay here in Geneva I have been immersed in the nitty-gritty details of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) efforts, and can now proudly announce that I can fluently speak in abbreviations and actually find myself using rather technical language when referring to USAR practice. I have learnt much of the intricate coordination that takes place off field, in the background of humanitarian crisis responses, and am certain that this will prove more than useful for my future deployable self.

Cheat Sheet of the System

If you happen to nail casual everyday networking and meet your future employer while scouting the corridors of the UN, your insight into, and knowledge of, the UN system will be useful both within and outside the organisation. You will know who, what and when; it's like having a cheat sheet on the core functions of the international humanitarian system. And while you're still in the system you have access to a range of online learning opportunities, which are an excellent way to boost your resume with courses ranging from field security to how to prevent sexual harassment.

Inside stories

Perhaps the most exciting part of being at the UN is the depth of experience that you will be surrounded by. The colleague to your right might have deployed to Syria, the Nepal earthquake and managed the Peru floods, while the colleague to your left might have been stationed in the Middle East for several years. Everyone has been somewhere, and has plenty of stories to tell. It's as if you're surrounded by

adventure junkies, each new story you hear being a little crazier than the last.

So do you get any real responsibilities?

The nature of your tasks will depend on your background and in which section you end up. Ultimately it is up to you to show interest in, and ability to, take on responsibilities, which in my experience, staff are more than happy to give you. Trust is a two-way thing, so prove that you are capable and you will get to do the fun stuff.

Finally, the Golden Question

The answer to 'is it worth it?', ironically enough, can only be answered after you decide to undertake, then finish, an internship. There is of course much value in entertaining any opportunity to gain professional experience, however in the case of interning without pay, it often is the flexibility

of our wallets that decides whether we choose to say yes or no. Although, what we should actually be asking is what we expect the outcomes of our internships to be. If it is to glean experience and a better understanding of the system, then the answer is a straightforward yes! If you want a job, then the experience will increase your chances – but as with anything in life, nothing is guaranteed. Ultimately, you are in charge, so make whatever you choose to do worth it!

Emma Jidinger is a former Humanitarian Advisory Group intern, a current intern at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva, and will soon commence a position as an Analyst at a Security & Risk Management company in Stockholm.

Article source: humanitarianadvisorygroup.org/why-do-an-unpaid-internship-one-young-humanitarians-perspective-on-the-benefits-of-interning-at-the-un/



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THE UNITED NATIONS

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Join us for the next WA Human Rights Committee Meeting!

MAY 25

The UNAAWA Human Rights committee meets monthly to discuss human rights issues of local and international interest. Committee attendees have the chance to listen to guest speakers from

a variety of backgrounds, network with other interested individuals and participate in the organization of UNAAWA events like International Human Rights Day.

Participation is open to all UNAAWA members.

Enquiries should be emailed to human.rights@unaa-wa.org.au.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

A CALL FOR MULTISECTORAL COMMITMENT AND ACTION

UNITE TO **END TB**



TOWARDS THE
**FIRST WHO GLOBAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ENDING TB IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ERA:
A MULTISECTORAL RESPONSE**

16-17 NOVEMBER 2017, MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION



World Health
Organization



Protection from the Protectors: Is Enough Being Done to Tackle Peacekeeper Sexual Abuse?



By: Dr Melanie O'Brien

Credit: AIIA

The UN Secretary-General is set to shake things up on peacekeeper sexual exploitation and abuse, but gaps remain.

The new Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, has recently released the 2017 report on [Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse](#). This report is annual. However, this year's report contains "a new approach", and is the biggest shake-up of UN policy on sexual exploitation prevention in years.

Sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers is [a huge problem](#), and not just because it is conduct that goes against the very mandate of peacekeepers to protect civilians and uphold human rights.

The new report shows a dramatic spike in number of victims and allegations reported by the UN in the past year (up to 145 allegations with 311 victims). However, these figures don't even scratch the surface of the reality of sexual exploitation. The most common crimes reported are child rape and sexual exploitation; the majority of victims are women and girls.

[Studies have shown](#) that even in missions with robust anti-sexual exploitation measures in place, [sexual exploitation and abuse are rife](#). Women and girls, out of desperation, trade sex for basic commodities such as food and medicine or for education costs.

[Condoms are often not used in sexual exchanges](#), due to lack of healthcare education of local girls and women, and/or a lack of willingness to ask a peacekeeper, as a powerful, armed man, to wear a condom. This is especially problematic as many peacekeeping missions take place in regions with high HIV/AIDS levels, with this year's report showing a number of allegations were made against peacekeepers stationed in countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo and Congo.

The report notes that risk of sexual exploitation and abuse is highest where "local populations are at their most vulnerable, where people are displaced, desperate and under extreme duress, and where local public safety and legal systems are ineffective or wholly absent". These factors are present in most locations where peacekeepers are deployed.

To tackle the problem, the UN is instigating a new four-pronged approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse: "putting victims first; ending impunity; engaging civil society and external partners; and improving strategic communications for education and transparency".

Guterres has set out several actions that he will take. These seek to ensure more comprehensive system-wide reporting and focus on the victims. Actions will include the appointment of a senior human rights expert to the office of the Secretary-General as a system-wide victims' rights advocate, and having mission heads conduct risk assessments.

The report also makes several requests of member states to *consider* certain actions, which is by no means a guarantee these will happen. These include procedures to withhold reimbursement payments when investigations of allegations are not undertaken, reported on and concluded "in a timely manner", with those payments instead donated to the Victims' Trust Fund.

It is not clear, however, whether this means all reimbursement payments to that member state, or only the payments to the person subject to allegations. Withholding all reimbursement payments would be a powerful action for the UN to take and an extraordinary motivator for states to act on allegations, although it is improbable states would agree to this.

However, one of the biggest problems of peacekeeper sexual exploitation and abuse is that it occurs with impunity. Studies have shown that [certainty of punishment](#) works as the most effective deterrent of a criminal justice system. Currently, there is no certainty of punishment for peacekeepers who commit sexual exploitation and abuse.

The UN is not a country and therefore cannot prosecute and punish perpetrators of crimes. Only the sending states can undertake a criminal investigation and prosecution of their peacekeeping personnel.

But for the most part, [sending states cannot do this](#) in practice. Many countries

do not have comprehensive laws outlawing sexual offences, and particularly not for sexual exploitation. In addition, laws traditionally only apply within a country's territory. This means that to prosecute its own peacekeepers, a state must specifically allow for its laws to apply outside of its territory; what is termed 'extraterritorial jurisdiction'.

There is little to be found in the 2017 report addressing this shortfall. At most, Guterres will "renew the call upon Member States to extend extraterritorial jurisdictions over crimes" committed by their peacekeepers. He has also suggested the creation of a voluntary protocol between member states and the UN which would include an agreement for member states to exercise or establish extraterritorial jurisdiction.

The report notes that South Africa will table a defence bill sometime in 2017 to create a specific offence for sexual exploitation, and that Vanuatu will 'consider' doing the same.

Yet nowhere in the report is there a discussion of working with member states to ensure they have the ability in law to prosecute and punish sexual exploitation; nor is there a program created to support, instruct and oversee states on this issue.

Guterres' 'new approach' contains many positive steps towards prevention of sexual exploitation, but gaps remain. His proposal to hold a meeting on the issue alongside the UN General Assembly's session this year, will hopefully lead towards a more comprehensive solution from both the UN and member states.

Article originally published: www.policyforum.net/protection-from-the-protectors/

Republished from : www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australian_outlook/protection-from-protectors-tackle-peacekeeper-sexual-abuse/



WITHOUT DIPLOMATIC ACTION, AUSTRALIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL BID IS FUTILE



Credit: AIIA

By Ante Malencia

Foreign minister Julie Bishop's visit to the Philippines earlier this month has added another question mark to Australia's bid for a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council. If Australia wishes to use its seat for the promotion of human rights globally, how can it continue to ignore the violent abuses by nations in its own region?

On the webpage dedicated to Australia's bid for a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) claims "our inaugural candidacy reflects our commitment to the aims and purposes of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to the ongoing promotion and protection of human rights." While candidacy itself may reflect that commitment, Australia's diplomatic and domestic actions do not. Foreign minister Julie Bishop's visit to the Philippines this month provided a glaring example of this double-standard. Troubling consequences will arise from this

inconsistency, both for the bid's prospects and Australia's legitimacy if elected to the council.

Australia's weakened pitch

The UNHRC declares it is "responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights" and "addressing situations of human rights violations and mak[ing] recommendations on them".

Since the official launch of the UNHRC campaign by Julie Bishop in 2015, Australia has been in the running for one of the two seats available to the Western Europe and Others group (WEOG) of the United Nations General Assembly. Australia is competing against Spain and France for a three-year term on the council between 2018 and 2020 and must secure enough votes from other members of the General Assembly to ensure election.

Currently, Australian officials and politicians cite a carefully curated selection of "pillars" as the basis of the bid.

Within the scope of the "promotion and protection of freedom of expression" pillar, DFAT points to the abolition of the death penalty as being integral to its commitment to human rights. Further, the foreign minister's own office has published press releases and made repeated statements that situate the "global abolition of the death penalty" at

the very core of Australia's human rights objectives. This provides the most glaring example of Australia presenting to the UNHRC a version of itself contradicted by its actual diplomacy.

By meeting with President Duterte in the Philippines as she did, the Julie Bishop has handed both regional and global legitimacy to a regime openly besieging its people's right to freedom of expression through extra-judicial killings. The Southeast Asian leader has been condemned by both Human Rights Watch and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein. The latter argues that Duterte's acts—both as mayor of Davao and president of the Philippines—“violate international law”. According to Amnesty International, since Duterte's election in June 2016, certain police officers have been paid between \$212 and \$400 for each drug suspect slain; more than 7,000 have died in the same period.

No public statement against President Duterte's reinstated and liberally exercised death penalty was issued by Bishop's office. Instead, the two met in Davao City, Duterte's bastion, to discuss the threat of extremism, unrest in Mindanao and cooperation on sustainable mining practices. Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella characterised the meeting as “warm and cordial” and as having “set the tone for more positive engagement”.

Australia cannot tout the shining virtue of its human rights pillars while concurrently meeting with a regime that overtly abuses fundamental human rights as if nothing were the matter. It is a simultaneously confused and *confusing* foreign policy. An observer's confusion would be heightened by DFAT's claim that “we are already leaders in promoting improvements, particularly in the Indo-Pacific”.

While the Philippines is an incredibly important strategic partner and cutting ties with Manila is unfeasible, applying consistent public and diplomatic pressure is not. Bishop's own success with Vladimir Putin during the Ukrainian MH17 disaster shows that the current government can effect significant change during diplomatically precarious situations that threaten human rights, even ones that involve volatile strongmen.

Can Australia make a difference?

The UNHRC has been censured by critics for repeated examples of obstructionism and bloc voting by a coalition of countries often noted for their murky human rights records. This coalition, known as the Like-Minded Group (LMG), is made up of countries including Russia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Cuba. Known for resisting advances in norms and practices, attacking well-established norms, stifling civil society groups and pursuing controversial parallel resolutions, these nations are generally authoritarian and deeply conservative, targeting women's and LGBTQI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning and intersex) rights in particular. According to DFAT, the LMG attempted 31 hostile amendments in 2016 alone.

While the LMG's involvement makes the UNHRC weaker than it could be, a successful Australian candidacy would nonetheless result in a uniquely positioned, enthusiastic new member of the council; one that could grease the wheels on select issues considered too difficult for other members.

Even before the announcement of its candidacy, Australia has earnestly engaged with the UNHRC. As a member of the UN General Assembly, Australia has used its influence and access to limited official

channels to co-sponsor, amend and indirectly float ideas for resolutions. In March 2016 alone, Australia co-sponsored 17 of the 40 resolutions tabled by the UNHRC. Furthermore, the Australian delegation has a history of putting its name to joint statements condemning abuses. Australia was one of 12 countries to sign onto the “public joint statement on the human rights situation in China”, a document expressing concern about the Chinese government’s human rights record.

As encouraging as this early mobilisation may be, it grows hollow as Australia continues down the path of indifference to human rights abuses when dealing with countries on a bilateral basis. Australia’s UN track record shows that it can stand against the hostile elements of the UNHRC. It needs a regional diplomatic track record to match.

Negative consequences

Not only does Australia’s myopic track record jeopardise its chances of ascension to the UNHRC, it also weakens the authority of its position as a member should its bid to prove successful.

Australia’s UNHRC bid is still worthy of pursuit, but the nation must strengthen its commitment to human rights issues—both at home and regionally—by increasing funding to domestic programs and refusing to turn a blind eye to the misdoings of its partners in the Asia-Pacific. Otherwise, the Australian delegation may find itself with scant votes and little influence.

Ante Malenica is the outgoing editor of the AIIA’s blog, Australian Outlook. He is completing a master of international relations and a master of international law at the University of Western Australia.

Republished from Australian Institute of International Affairs





REUTERS

UN PICKS FORMER US STATE GOVERNOR TO RUN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Reporting by *Michelle Nichols*; Editing by *David Gregorio*

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres has appointed former South Carolina Governor David Beasley to run the Rome-based World Food Programme (WFP), at a time when U.S. President Donald Trump has proposed slashing funding for the world body and its agencies.

Beasley will replace another American, Ertharin Cousin, who has been the WFP executive director since 2012. Washington was the top contributor to WFP in 2016 with \$2 billion, a third of the agency's budget.

Trump has proposed an unspecified cut in funding for the United Nations and its agencies. U.S. Ambassador to the United

Nations Nikki Haley, like Beasley, is also a former governor of South Carolina.

"Mr. Beasley has a wealth of experience that would greatly benefit WFP, the United Nations and the international community at large," Guterres wrote in a letter, seen by Reuters, notifying the WFP executive board of the appointment.

Guterres said Beasley, who served as South Carolina governor from 1995 to 1999, was among 23 applications/nominations for the job. The WFP executive board noted his appointment in a letter to Guterres on Tuesday.

Republished from www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-un-idUSKBN16Z208

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

As from the 1st July 2017, the Family Membership will cease to be offered.

Therefore, all current Family Memberships that fall due on or after the 30th June 2017 will revert to a single [normal or concessional] membership for each member named in the original Family Membership.

A single membership will be offered to each family member on the renewal date.

It is hoped that you will continue to support the United Nations Association of Australia [WA Division].



Curtin Graduate School of Business Seminar Series

View from the Top

“BUSINESS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABILITY — A ROADMAP TO PROSPERITY”

By *Melanie Chatfield*

On 6 April 2017, Curtin Graduate School of Business alumni, students and staff came together to hear from UNAOWA President Dr Steve Lennon.

The focus for the evening was the role of values and culture in creating sustainable business models for the future.

Dr Lennon explained how the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be linked to the creation of an enduring business strategy and vision for excellence.

His key message for the evening: Sustainability starts at home.

“The Sustainable Development Goals are not just for Governments. They are for all sectors of society – even down to you and I” he said.

“We can all do something to reduce our footprint, conserve energy, save water, reduce waste and curb consumption.”

He encouraged a shift from ‘consumer’ driven behaviour to ‘user’, invoking the well known adage Reduce, Re-use, Recycle.

Dr Lennon also re-iterated the importance of looking after our people, taking care of our health and respecting the rights of others.



Credit: CGSB

From the left: Mr John Langoulant AO (Chair of Advisory Board CGSB), Dr Steve Lennon (President of UNAOWA), Dr Sandy Chong (Vice-President of UNAOWA) & Professor Mile Terziovski (Dean of CGSB)

He challenged everyone to not only read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but to adopt it as a way of living.

He closed the session by encouraging individuals to reflect on their personal impact. To think about what changes they could bring to traditional modes of thinking and development, both personally and professionally.

“Never underestimate the power of one” he said. “We all need to spread awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals. There is power in the alignment of many individuals and every contribution helps. We can crowd source sustainability.”

Learn more: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

29 March 2017

Perspectives from a UNAAWA Volunteer

By *Javier Yaoda Choo*



I remember when I signed up for the IdeaGen event.

I was excited by the fact that it was an event in conjunction with KPMG Australia and UNAAWA.

As part of the event, I got to work in a team to come up with a strategic digital marketing campaign.

It was delightful to interact with organisational representatives including UNAAWA Vice President Dr Sandy Chong.

"As a UNAAWA volunteer I get to learn about issues that concern us as global citizens."

Dr Chong was both inspiring and informative about what the UNAAWA does and its goals to engage with the wider community.

She spoke about many of the key issues such as the need for humanitarian support, increasing awareness of human rights and volunteering opportunities.

I had heard about the United Nations but didn't know much about it.



I realized it was my opportunity to achieve more in my life so I went and spoke with Dr Chong.

She invited me to an event where I decided to join the UNAAWA team and have a chance to make a difference.

As a UNAAWA volunteer I get to learn about issues



that concern us as global citizens.

I feel as a student we learn the typical syllabus in school and university but being a volunteer allows us to start building a network outside our study environment.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be an intern for the UNAAWA. It has drawn me closer to the community and I look forward to giving back to the society.



Save The Date

27th Oct 2017

United Nations Day
Anniversary Celebration
Government House Ballroom

UNAAWA

Member and Volunteer Evening

29 March 2017, Parmelia Hilton, Perth

The UNAAWA would like to thank all those who attended, our sponsors, speakers and the many others who helped to ensure the event was a great success.

The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to network, celebrate and connect with like minded people committed to making a difference.

We look forward to seeing you at the next one.





PROTECTING **CHILDREN** FROM THE ENVIRONMENT

Each year 1.7 million deaths of children under 5 are linked to the environment.

570,000 deaths



Respiratory infections,
including pneumonia

360,000 deaths



Diarrhoea

270,000 deaths



Neonatal conditions,
including prematurity

200,000 deaths



Unintentional injuries,
such as burns, drowning

200,000 deaths



Malaria

26%



World Health
Organization

Reducing environmental risks could
prevent a quarter of these deaths.



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