



**2019 - 2020  
ACT Division  
Annual  
Report**



# President's Report – Brian Gleeson

During unprecedented times during the year, the ACT Division has been able to consolidate its operations, sustain its membership base and advocate the key goals of the UN through our activities.

This 2019-20 Annual Report provides a snapshot of results with highlights of the successful conduct of a range of events covering diverse subject areas specially related to the UN. There has been a focus on advocacy of the SDGs, peace and security, COVID and human rights. Following the onset of the pandemic, events have been conducted virtually with strong participation rates and vibrant discussions. The solid financial position has been maintained, despite the inability to raise funds through physical paying events.

As President, I have represented the Division at all National Board meetings conducted during the year and provided technical advice and support to a range of activities, including the review of Board policies, participating on selection panels for key positions, contributing to strategic Board papers and working collaboratively with other Division Presidents in maximising key messaging around a decentralised model of governance and a one UNAA model of cooperation. One specific initiative that I was part of instigating and I am excited about for next year is the establishment of the UN Alumni Network, which has a lot of potential to mobilise UN knowledge and experiences and new members.

Thanks to all my hard working Committee members who provide excellent support and a wealth of experience in the pursuit of quality services to the Division's members.

Brian

## WITH THANKS TO

**Executive Committee Members**  
**President:** Brian Gleeson

### **Vice Presidents:**

Harold Wilkinson  
Jenna Allen  
Nick Flack

**Secretary:** Cameron Wickham  
**Treasurer:** Frances Stanton

### **Committee Members**

John Tilemann  
Nimalan Karthikeyan  
Michele Smith  
Peter Thompson

### **Immediate Past President**

Jonathan Curtis (2018-2019)





# Audited Financial Statements 2019



LES ELLIS + associates pty.  
registered tax agent + public accountants

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## Independent Audit Report to The Members Of United Nations Association of Australia (ACT Division) Incorporated

We have audited the special purpose financial statements of United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated for the period ended 30 June 2020. The association's directors are responsible for the financial statements. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the association.

Our audit has been conducted to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented in a manner which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

### Qualification

It is not practical to establish control over cash receipts until their initial entry into the accounting records. Our audit was therefore restricted to the amounts received. The Association has prepared a Statement of receipts and payments and a statement of accumulated funds rather than a formal Profit and Loss and balance sheet. These items give a true and fair view of the associations' financial position.

### Audit Opinion

Subject to the foregoing reservations, in our opinion, the financial statements of United Nations Association of Australia (ACT Division) Incorporated are properly drawn up:

- I. so as to give a true and fair view of:
  - A. the association's financial position as at 30 June 2020, and income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2020;
- II. to satisfy the requirements of subsection 72(2) of the Associations Incorporation Act to be dealt with in financial statements.

Les Ellis & Associates Pty

Les Ellis FIPA  
Thursday, September 3, 2020

\*Due to space restrictions, the full audited accounts have not been printed in this report.  
For a copy of these accounts, please email [actpres@unaa.org.au](mailto:actpres@unaa.org.au)

## **United Nations Association of Australia (ACT Division) Incorporated** **STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020**

	FY 2019-20	FY 2018-19	FY 2017-18
	\$ Actual	\$ Actual	\$ Actual
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>6,166</b>	<b>7,387</b>	<b>4,203</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>4,868</b>	<b>6,021</b>	<b>6,162</b>
<b>CASH SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>-1,959</b>
<b>CASH AT BANK - 30 June 2020</b>			
Operating account: Westpac	8,276	6,981	5,622
Special account: Westpac	2,769	2,766	2,759
Interest Bearing Deposit	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,045</b>	<b>19,747</b>	<b>18,381</b>





United Nations  
Association  
of Australia  
ACT Division

17  
SEPT  
2019

## THE LONG ROAD HOME: AN UPDATE ON WESTERN SAHARA'S NON-VIOLENT STRUGGLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

Techber Ahmed Saleh Western Sahara Refugee  
presentation and discussion  
17 September Tuesday, 18:00 to 19.30,  
Fellows Road Hall ANU in partnership with the  
ANU Law School



On 17th September 2019, Techber Ahmed Saleh from the Saharawi refugee camps in south-west Algeria spoke to an audience of 45 people at the ANU about Western Sahara, Africa's last colony. Techber was speaking to a joint gathering of the UNAA (ACT) and the ANU Centre for International and Public Law. Techber, who worked in the Ministry of Health in the Saharawi refugee camps, spoke about the conditions of life in the camps and the larger political issues facing Western Sahara. She pointed out that, in 1975, as Morocco invaded Western Sahara, the Saharawis fled to escape the occupation and now 173,600 remain in refugee camps. The Saharawi continue their non-violent struggle, waiting for the United Nations referendum of self-determination which was agreed in 1991. The Moroccan Ambassador also spoke about the role the Moroccans had played in this dispute and challenged much of Techber's presentation. Following the presentations and questions, Brian Gleeson facilitated a lively question and answer session with a mixed audience sharing different perspectives on the issues raised.





## The United Nations Human Rights Council: Pass or Fail?

### **Panel:**

#### **Dr Cecilia Jacob**

Fellow in the Department of International Relations at the Coral Bell School at the Australian National University

#### **John Quinn**

Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva

#### **Moderator**

#### **Colin Milner**

ANU School of History, former diplomat and delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Council

Human Rights are an article of faith of the UN Charter. One of the reasons the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda are a transformative development framework is that they are based on human rights - over 90 percent of the goals and targets of the SDGs correspond to human rights obligations. Yet the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), mandated to promote human rights and address violations, has been strongly criticized as conflicted and impotent. The United States has quit the HRC in protest at its perceived ineffectiveness. Australia has now served two thirds of its three year term as a full member of the 47 member Council, the first time it has done so, promising a 'principled and pragmatic approach'.

The panel discussed how the HRC, and Australia's membership of it was tracking. The expert panel also offered views regarding the current UN machinery and whether it is fit for the purpose in protecting and promoting human rights globally.



*Photo: Peter Drennan speaking at the UNAA ACT public event.*





United Nations  
Association  
of Australia  
ACT Division

4  
FEB  
2020

## UN SECURITY

HOW TO DELIVER LIFE SAVING PROGRAMS  
IN AN INCREASINGLY HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

**UN Security - How to deliver life saving programs in an increasingly hostile environment**  
**SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**  
**TEAM: ACT Division**  
**DATE: 2020**  
**LOCATION: Canberra**

As conflict and natural disasters persist across the globe the demands on the United Nations to find political solutions, deliver life-saving humanitarian aid, protect human rights and drive sustainable development continue to grow. Peter Drennan, former Under-Secretary-General of the UN Department of Safety and Security is the highest ranked Australian to ever work in the UN. Speaking in Canberra Peter highlighted that the security environment across the world is not changing, some conflicts have been resolved but too many continue, the impact of crime, corruption and extremism is significant, food insecurity is growing and economic and social disparity drives insecurity, mass migration and nationalism. The challenge for the United Nations, agencies, funds, programs and departments is to 'stay and deliver' but to also keep United Nations personnel safe and secure.

# Events of 2020-21 so far...



United Nations Association of Australia ACT Division

25 AUG 2020

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UN'S  
PEACE & SECURITY  
AGENDA IN AN INCREASINGLY  
INSECURE WORLD**



United Nations Association of Australia ACT Division

21 JULY 2020

**COVID 19  
ROLE OF THE UN  
- LESSONS LEARNT**



**Australia's Peacekeeping History with Ret'd  
Major General Tim Ford**

**Thu, 8 Oct 2020**  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM