



Inside this issue:

Topic of the month: DR of Congo Crisis

Financial Crisis

US Presidential Election

Peace & Security

UNAA News & Events

UNAA Awards & Education Programs

UN Observances



THOUSANDS IN EASTERN CONGO NEED YOUR HELP.

[DONATE NOW](#)

Topic of the month: DR of Congo Crisis

UN envoy voices hope for additional troops in DR Congo

18th November

The top United Nations envoy to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) today expressed hope that the Security Council will shortly approve a request for 3,000 additional troops to buttress blue helmets already on the ground in the country's east, the scene of fierce recent conflict.

Currently, the UN peacekeeping mission in the country, known as [MONUC](#), has nearly 6,000 troops in North Kivu province, which

has been wracked by fighting between Government forces and rebel militias. The Council's authorization for extra forces will "enable us to reinforce our presence, particularly in North Kivu, which is really needed given the pressures on us from many direction," Alan Doss, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, told reporters in New York via video link from the DRC.

[More Details](#)

South Kivu: Mai-Mai groups agree to join demobilization programme in Uvira

18th November

On Monday 17 November 2008, South Kivu governor Louis-Leonce Muderhwa met the Mai-Mai leaders of the Zabuloni and Shikito groups in Uvira, within the framework of the sensitization arm of the Amani programme. The Mai-Mai gave their agreement in principle to accept disarmament and demobilization and to send their combatants next week to the Luberizi military training camp, located 50 km north of Uvira.

The meeting took place in the Pakistani Blue Helmets camp, in the presence of the representative of MONUC's Bukavu office, Sheik Bangoura, and of the chief of the DRC Armed Forces (FARDC) 10th military region, General Patrick Mazunzu, with the aim of sensitizing the Mai-Mai groups of the area.



South Kivu governor Louis-Leonce Muderhwa



Financial Crisis

Urgent action needed before global financial crisis worsens

13th November

More on Financial Crisis:

- [Current crises threaten to roll back development gains, warns Ban](#)
- [Financial crisis must not diminish support to improve women's lives, urges Ban](#)
- [Financial crisis threatens efforts towards global anti-poverty targets, says Migiro](#)

Immediate action is needed to prevent the current financial crisis from becoming a "human tragedy," resulting in political and security challenges that would overwhelm the current economic problems, warned Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon ahead of this weekend's meeting of the so-called Group of 20 (G-20) nations.

This will be the first time that the G-20 summit – aimed at promoting dialogue between advanced and emerging countries on key issues regarding economic growth and stability of the financial system – has met at the level of heads of State, as well as the first time that the United Nations Secretary-General has been invited to attend.

"It is essential that the G-20 meeting signals an unmistakable common resolve to overcome the crisis, to act together, to act with urgency and to show solidarity towards the neediest," Mr. Ban said in a letter to the global leaders attending Saturday's meeting in Washington, D.C.

"An important way of doing this will be by meeting the existing commitments on aid, so that progress towards the

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be maintained," he added, referring to the internationally agreed targets to halve extreme poverty and other ills by 2015.

Mr. Ban stressed that institutional reforms cannot be restricted to financial sector regulation, but must deal with the broader challenges for human security, including climate change, conflict prevention and the eradication of poverty.

He noted that an opportunity for climate change exists in the fiscal stimulus packages many countries are introducing as the economic crisis requires an increase in public investment to shore up national markets.

"To limit climate change successfully we will need to invest in new technologies, in green jobs and in helping the world cope with the changes that are already inevitable," Mr. Ban said in the letter.

[More Details](#)



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with US Senator Barack Obama in February 2007

US Presidential Election

Ban congratulates Obama on election as United States

(5 November 2008)

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today extended his congratulations to United States President-Elect Barack Obama, voicing hope that his election will usher in a new era of multilateralism and enhanced partnership with the United Nations.

"As Secretary-General of the UN, I look forward to working with the new administration to fulfil our common goals and enormously important objectives," Mr Ban told reporters in New York. "This is, I believe, an historic opportunity."

He recalled previous statements by Mr. Obama, who was elected last night and will take office next January, in which he spoke about the strong stake the US has in the UN.

This will be a "good opportunity not only

for, not only the United States, but the United Nations as a whole to resolve all issues through dialogue," the Secretary-General said, expressing confidence that there will be greater cooperation between the Organization and the US.

"If ever there were a time for the world to join together, it is now," he said, pointing to the global financial turmoil, climate change, reaching the anti-poverty Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by their 2015 deadline and the twin food and energy crises.



Peace and Security

UN calls for extra \$8 million to help aid health operations in Ethiopia

3rd October

More on Peace & Security:

- [UN mission deploys extra police as fighting continues in eastern DR Congo](#)
- [Organized crime threatens peace efforts, top UN police official warns INTERPOL](#)
- [Aid agencies suspend work in eastern Chad because of insecurity - UN](#)
- [South Africa: UN rights chief urges protection for](#)

The United Nations World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) is appealing for an additional \$8 million to fund its humanitarian preparedness and response operations in Ethiopia, where prolonged drought has left hundreds of thousands of the Horn of Africa country's poorest people at serious risk of malnutrition or disease. The money raised in the appeal will be used to ensure health-care facilities in Ethiopia are better placed to handle recurrent crises, including droughts

and floods, both before and after they occur, according to WHO. The agency had already raised \$10 million to cover its humanitarian health operations for 2008-09, but the severity of the drought – which has hit almost the entire country, as well as several neighbouring States in the region – has forced WHO to seek an extra \$8 million from donors.

[More Details](#)

UNAA NEWS AND EVENTS

30th UNAA Media Peace Awards 2008

Winners of the 2008 United Nations Association of Australia Media Peace Awards were announced at the Arts Centre in Melbourne on Friday 24 October.

Investigative journalism dominated the awards again this year, with some exceptional pieces on subjects ranging from international child trafficking and its connections to adoptions in Australia, to the realities of domestic violence. International reports publicised the plight of Syrian and Iraqi refugees, and several winning entries focused on national Indigenous issues.

SBS and ABC Television both featured heavily, taking away three awards apiece, with the Australian Financial Review, Time Magazine, ABC Radio, Sydney Morning Herald, Screen Australia and the Fraser Coast Chronicle also winning awards.

The Age, the Australian Women's Weekly, Channel Nine and production company Pony Films were also recognised with Special Commendations.

The Media Peace Awards seek to promote understanding and awareness about humanitarian and social justice issues by

recognising journalists who stimulate public awareness and influence policy change.

The joint chairs of the judging panel for the Awards, Justice Philip Cummins (of the Victorian Supreme Court) and Michael Smith (former editor of The Age) said the standard of this year's entries was outstanding, and demonstrated the commitment of Australian journalists to quality reporting.

They said: "Some of the best work produced by Australian journalists has featured in these awards over the last 30 years, and 2008 proved to be no exception."

The 30th Anniversary of the Awards was hosted by Kerry O'Brien of the ABC.

[More Details](#)

UNAA (Victorian Division) Annual General Meeting 2008

All members of the UNAA (Victorian Division) are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting.

speaker and trainer for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific/Seoul Initiative

Date: Thursday 20 November

Time: 5:30-7:00pm

Knox Lecture Room
Thomas Carr Centre
278 Victoria Parade
East Melbourne VIC 3002

This year's guest speaker is Philip Sutton. A lecturer on global warming science and convenor of the Greenleap Strategic Institute, Philip also co-wrote the book *Climate Code Red*. He has been a lecturer at both Melbourne and RMIT Universities and was a conference

on Green Growth. Philip has been a long term campaigner for action on climate change and in his latest book argues the case for emergency action.

The AGM provides an excellent opportunity for members to see what the UNAA (Victorian Division) has done over the last year and learn more about the issue of climate change from a learned and leading source. Drinks and light refreshments will be served.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting the office.



UNAA Education Program: Model UN Conferences

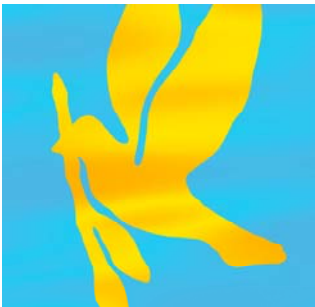
Geelong City Model UN

On Friday 17 October, senior students from 14 schools in the Greater City of Geelong participated in a Model UN Conference entitled 'Climate Change and Environmental Refugees—the Challenges to Human Security.'

This Model UN was held in conjunction

with the Members for Corio and Corangamite and Deakin University.

It aimed at enhancing understanding of complex global issues, the United Nations system, and the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in international affairs.



UN Observances

November 20, 2008

Universal Children's Day

In December 1954, the General Assembly recommended that all countries institute a Universal Children's Day, to be observed as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children. It recommended that the Day was to be observed also as a day of activity devoted to promoting the ideals and objectives of the Charter and the welfare of the children of the world, which each considers appropriate.

November 25, 2008

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women:

In December 1999, the 54th session of the United Nations General Assembly declared November 25th the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Show your support for ending violence against women and children by supporting White Ribbon Day. Information about the day and ribbons can be purchased on the White Ribbon Day website.

[White Ribbon Day Website](#)

[More Details](#)

[More Details](#)

UNAA Victoria office:

www.unaavictoria.org.au

Ph: (03) 9670 7878 || Fax: (03) 9670 9993

Email: info@unaavictoria.org.au