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General Assembly President
Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann

"Let's make sure the financial crisis does not divert our efforts. If we are to take away any lesson from the multiple crises we face, it is that delaying action only makes matters worse."

Topic of the month: World Economic Crisis

General Assembly President says idolatry of markets caused financial crisis

(3 October 2008)

Unrestrained worship of the market has led to the current worldwide financial crisis, General Assembly President Miguel D'Escoto said today, calling for solidarity between individuals and governments and a renewed faith in the value of regulation to resolve the economic problems.

"We are reaping the consequences of the idolatry," Mr. D'Escoto told reporters at a

[press conference](#) held after the end this week of the annual high-level debate at the General Assembly.

He said the failure of the markets to correct the problems that have emerged over the past year taught an important lesson: blind trust in the markets will only lead to trouble.

[More Details](#)

Financial crisis threatens efforts towards global anti-poverty targets, says Migiro

(6 October 2008)

Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro has warned countries that the current financial crisis, which is impacting all economies and exacerbating the suffering of millions, is also threatening the efforts to slash poverty, hunger, disease and other socio-economic ills by 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

"The financial crisis only exacerbates the hardship already being caused by higher prices of food and energy, especially in low-

income countries, fomenting social and political unease,"

Ms. Migiro [told](#) the General Assembly's Second Committee, which deals with economic and financial matters.

"Despite the recent announcement by the World Bank that considerable progress has been made in reducing poverty and hunger, our work to achieve the Millennium Development Goals is clearly at risk," she cautioned.



UN Deputy Secretary-General
Asha-Rose Migiro

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](#)



Development

States pledge at UN to tackle special needs of landlocked poor nations

(3 October 2008)

The General Assembly today wrapped up a special high-level meeting with Member States renewing the pledge made five years ago to help the world's 31 landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) overcome the problems caused by their lack of territorial access to the sea and their remoteness and isolation from world markets.

In a declaration adopted at the end of the

two-day meeting, participants acknowledged that landlocked and transit countries have registered some progress in carrying out the actions agreed in the 2003 Almaty Programme of Action, which set out specific measures to compensate LLDCs for their geographical handicaps with improved market access and trade facilitation.

[More Details](#)

More on Development:

- [UN seeks to help landlocked countries overcome their handicap in trade](#)
- [Combating climate change could create millions of jobs, says UN-backed study](#)
- [UNICEF highlights new tool to analyse high maternal mortality rates in India](#)
- [Science and technology aid 450 million small farmers under UN plan](#)

World Bank's funding of renewable and efficient energy projects up 87 per cent

(3 October 2008)

The World Bank's funding for renewable and efficient energy projects in developing countries rose 87 per cent during the past year to nearly \$2.7 billion, reflecting the growing interest and demand for environmentally-friendly sources of power.

"Concerns about energy security, climate change, and increasing energy prices make many renewable energy and energy efficiency measures and applications very attractive in a number of different settings," said Jamal Saghir, World Bank Director for Energy, Transport, and Water.

"This is reflected in the increased demand

for investment and also for technical assistance to strengthen regulatory frameworks providing incentives to climate change-friendly applications," he added, according to a news release issued yesterday by the Bank, which is based in Washington, DC.



[More Details](#)



Women marching against sexual violence in the DRC

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](#)

Peace & Security

At least 5,000 Congolese arrive in Sudan after attacks by rebels - UN

(7 October 2008)

At least 5,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have arrived in South Sudan in the past two weeks after fleeing "ferocious" attacks by the notorious Ugandan rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), the United Nations refugee agency reported today.

Ron Redmond, a spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told reporters in Geneva that an estimated 150 Congolese are crossing every day into the villages of Sakure and Gangura, in the Yambio area of South Sudan.

A three-member UNHCR team was in Yambio over the weekend to assess the

needs of the new arrivals and to arrange assistance for them.

"Refugees told UNHCR that they fled their villages near Dungu, in north-eastern DRC, because of ferocious attacks by members of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)"

International Aid

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

(3 October 2008)

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.

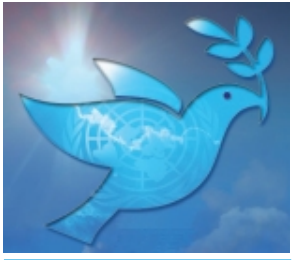
The agency had already raised \$10 million to cover its humanitarian health operations for 2008-09, but the severity of the drought – which has hit almost the entire country, as well as several neighbouring States in the region – has forced WHO to seek an extra \$8 million from donors.



[More Details](#)

More on International Aid:

- [Relief efforts continue in quake-hit Kyrgyzstan, UN reports](#)
- [Aid agencies suspend work in eastern Chad because of insecurity - UN](#)
- [Urgent aid needed as Zimbabwe's humanitarian crisis worsens - UN relief chief](#)



UNAA EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- October 17:**
Geelong City Schools Model UN Conference
- October 24:**
30th 'Pearl' Anniversary Media Peace Awards 2008 Presentation Dinner

UNAA NEWS AND EVENTS

30th UNAA Media Peace Awards Presentation Dinner 2008

Finalists have been selected for the 2008 United Nations Association of Australia Media Peace Awards.

These Awards recognise outstanding efforts by those in the media to highlight social justice and humanitarian issues, raise awareness within the Australian community and stimulate public debate.

See the list of finalists for 2008!

Winners will be announced at the 30th Anniversary Presentation Dinner:

- Date:** Friday 24 October, 2008
- Time:** 6:30pm
- Venue:** The Arts Centre ANZ Pavilion

Join us at the dinner to celebrate this significant milestone!

Full event details and ticket information available on our website or contact the UNAA Office (03) 9670 7878, office@unaavictoria.org.au.

Members' Drinks Night

On Tuesday, October 7th the UNAA held a very successful drinks night for members at Charlie's bar. This event gave members the chance to get to know each other and to discuss global issues, as well as other UNAA activities and events.

Stay informed with the monthly newsletter to find out about other upcoming UNAA events!

Human Rights Conference: Call for abstracts

Call for abstracts: "Everyday people, everyday rights" Human Rights Conference 09: 16 & 17 March 2009, The Melbourne Park Function Centre, Batman Avenue, Melbourne. Abstracts must be submitted **before November 3, 2008**.

The call for abstracts for the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission's

Human Rights & Responsibilities and what it has achieved considering Victoria's current state of affairs.

- ◆ The Experience of Human Rights: Sharing the knowledge and insight of everyday people and their advocates. How do we progress a human rights culture?



FILM: THE LEMON TREE

Synopsis: Salma, a Palestinian widow, has to stand up to her new

neighbour, the Israeli Defence Minister, when he moves into his new house opposite her lemon grove, on the green line border between Israel and the West bank.

In cinemas now!

Check your local cinema for session times.

Human Rights Conference is open until 3rd of November 2008. The conference is for people working in public policy and service delivery, human rights advocacy & education, the legal profession and business with a commitment to corporate social responsibility. The conference will provide a forum for discussion, debate and increased understanding of human rights, with a focus on youth and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

Abstract Categories:

- ◆ The Achievement of Human Rights: A review of the Victorian Charter of

- ◆ The Business of Human Rights: Practical examples of how incorporating human rights gives companies the competitive edge. An opportunity to showcase the big wins for both business and community when human rights are considered.

All abstracts should address the conference theme – Everyday People, Everyday Rights.

For instructions on submitting abstracts and for more information, go to:

www.humanrightsconference.com.au



UNAA Education Program: Model UN Conferences

Geelong City Model UN

Next Model UN Conference: Friday October 17, 2008 – Geelong.

This Model UN is being held in conjunction with the Members for Corio and Corangamite and Deakin University. Fourteen schools from the region will participate and discuss "There's no Place

like Home: How to Address the Situation of Environmental Refugees."

The conference aims to enhance understanding of complex global issues, the United Nations system, and the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in international affairs.

[More Details](#)



UN Observances

October 17, 2008

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

In recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the theme for this year's observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is "**Human Rights and Dignity of People Living in Poverty**".

[More Details](#)

October 24, 2008

United Nations Day

The anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter on 24 October 1945 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

It has traditionally been marked throughout the world by meetings, discussions and exhibits on the achievements and goals of the Organization. In 1971, the General Assembly recommended that Member States observe it as a public holiday.

[More Details](#)

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