

World Federalist NEWS

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WFM Launches UNSG Selection Campaign

By Seher Khawaja and Faye Leone

Through its UNSGselection.org website and campaign launched this spring, WFM-IGP has taken an active role in promoting a more effective, transparent and democratic selection process for the next UN Secretary-General. The website engages relevant actors worldwide in tracking the process, initiating debate, sharing and disseminating information. It also outlines criteria for the appointment of a qualified candidate and for an improved selection process.

Campaign: Transparent and Accountable Procedures for the Selection of the next Secretary-General

In 2006, the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA) will appoint the eighth UN Secretary-General. As the UN and other international organizations continually improve standards of accountability and impartiality in their hiring practices, NGOs note the need for the UN to initiate a similar process in the selection of its highest official. Historically, the selection of the SG, which is carried out by the General Assembly "upon the recommendation of the Security Council," has occurred largely behind closed doors within minimal parameters, falling far short of established "best practices" in international high-level public sector appointments, such as those applied by the World Trade Organization.

Based on consultations with NGOs and civil society worldwide, the UNSGselection campaign is therefore encouraging the United Nations to incorporate four procedures to enhance transparency, accountability and inclusiveness (see box on page 2). These crucial yet realistic reforms are based on the current UN format, practices within existing international



Yvonne Terlingen of Amnesty International, William Pace of WFM-IGP, Taina Bien-Aimé of Equality Now, and Vicente Garcia-Delgado of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation at a press briefing to launch the UNSG selection campaign in March 2006. Credit: UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz.

high-level appointment procedures, and calls from Security Council members themselves to enhance the accountability of the UN's management and leadership framework.

Update on the SG Selection Process

The 15 June nomination by India of Shashi Tharoor, currently serving as the UN Undersecretary General for Communications and Public Information, introduced the question of whether there is a need for candidates to take a leave of absence from their current posts while campaigning. A related question is whether civil servants who are campaigning (such as Foreign Minister Ban Ki Moon of South Korea and Deputy

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Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai of Thailand) face a conflict of interest in their relations with other governments who may be influential in the selection process, especially the permanent five members of the Security Council.

Another area of recent discussion is the number of candidates that the Security

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WFM-IGP is an international non-profit organization with UN ECOSOC Consultative Status.

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For a list of the project staff for the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, please consult <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=stafflist>



*Staff of the New York International Secretariats of the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court in May 2006.
Top Row (l-r): Brigitte Suhr, Anjali Kamat, Désiré Assogbavi, Tanya Karanasios, William Pace, Lene Schumacher, Eleanor Thompson, Stephanie Getson, and Sally Eberhardt;
Middle Row (l-r): Heather Sonner, Nicole Deller, Peter Deitz, Staci Alziebler, Elisabeth Garrett, Leila Rachidi, and Esti Tambay; Bottom row (l-r): Carlos Rivera-Jones, Zoya Craig, Francesca Varda, Katrina Dorn, Seher Khawaja, Laura Paven, and Linda Gueye.
Credit: Katherina Bickel*

UNSG Selection Campaign

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Council should submit to the General Assembly. India has proposed a change to the current process. This proposal would have the Security Council send at least two candidates to the GA for consideration, rather than only one name to be approved or rejected. One member state has privately expressed concern that such a process would weaken the candidate who is finally selected. Another implication of submitting multiple candidates is that in the GA developing countries form a majority. As a result, the views of developing countries on management reform and the role of the SG will be influential. If a candidate is convincingly independent from powerful member states, however, the developing countries may be willing to support management reforms that give the SG more authority, as well as a candidate with strong leadership appeal.

For more information, or if your organization would like to endorse the campaign, please contact us at info@UNSGselection.org.

Seher Khawaja was WFM-IGP Program Associate through June 2006. Faye Leone is the current WFM-IGP Program Associate.

UNSG Selection:

Four procedures to enhance transparency, accountability and inclusiveness

- 1) Formal candidate qualifications
- 2) Official timetable with systematic reporting
- 3) Procedures for assessment of candidates
- 4) Standardized system of background checks

Details on the four procedures procedures can be found at:

<http://www.unsgselection.org>

Responsibility to Protect – Engaging Civil Society Project Update

By Angela Edman

Following the historic endorsement of the Responsibility to Protect at the UN Summit in September, the R2PCS project has continued its work, with new strategies tailored to post-summit advocacy. Having contributed to the success of the inter-governmental process at the United Nations, in which Member States agreed that they have a responsibility to protect their populations from genocide and crimes against humanity, R2PCS is well-positioned to continue promoting awareness of the R2P principles in the international community and the development of relevant norms to realize R2P, as well as to contribute to the development of NGO monitoring of issues related to R2P around the world.

One of the major goals of the project is to raise awareness at the national, regional and international levels of the exact commitments that governments made at the Summit. R2PCS plans to accomplish this by building and working with strategic NGO networks that have the ability to make the R2P principles part of their work and their governments' work. R2PCS will contribute to the work of NGOs that tackle the issue of how and when to invoke R2P principles in situations of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. The project also aims to engage civil society organizations and governments in a dialogue on the capacities that are needed to implement R2P.

Since the Summit, R2PCS has engaged in awareness-raising in various forums. In September, a WFM member organization, One World Trust, convened a meeting entitled *Governments and NGOs, their Responsibility to Protect*, to which R2PCS contributed. The Canadian Mission to the United Nations hosted an event on Security Council resolution 1325 and R2P, in which R2PCS participated



November 2005 Inter-Parliamentary Union Hearings at the UN. Panel on “The responsibility to protect – Early warning and coordinated response” features Sen. Romeo Dallaire, Under-Secretary-General Jan Egelund and WFM-IGP’s Nicole Deller (not pictured) Credit: IPU.

as a member of the roundtable. The project co-hosted and presented at a panel on R2P entitled Peace, Security and Women’s Human Rights: Lessons Learned, Challenges Faced and Strategies to Move Forward, at the 10th International Forum on Women’s Rights and Development in Bangkok, hosted by the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID). In November R2PCS participated in a Parliamentary Forum at the United Nations, hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Later that month, we attended the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court, where we successfully advocated for the inclusion of R2P in the final ASP resolution. Recently, R2PCS participated in the international steering group meeting of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, which included R2P in its Global Action Agenda.

R2PCS continues to push for further codification of the R2P principles in international, regional and national bodies. In collaboration with Oxfam International, International Save the Children Alliance, CARE International, Human Rights Watch and the International Rescue Committee, we wrote advocacy letters to Security Council members urging them to support the inclusion of R2P in the Protection of Civilians in Armed

Conflict resolution, and met with key states outside of the Council to push for strong statements on R2P during the Council’s open debate. In April R2PCS welcomed the reaffirmation of R2P in Security Council resolution 1674, marking yet another milestone in international acceptance of the R2P principles.

At the regional and national level R2PCS is forming closer strategic relationships with key NGOs in places such as Mali, Zambia and Haiti. The project is working with partner organizations in Africa to organize a series of trainings around the continent on R2P and the commitments made by governments and the international community. R2PCS is also working to help develop a dialogue on the application of R2P and the tools needed to effectively use the commitment made by governments and the Security Council to ensure the protection of populations and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. R2PCS hopes to continue to raise awareness of the responsibility to protect and contribute to the work of NGOs around the world on these important issues.

Angela Edman was Program Associate and Editor of the WF News. She left WFM-IGP to attend law school.

Reformtheun.org Provides Comprehensive Overview of Reform Issues

By Seher Khawaja

WFM-IGP continues to operate ReformtheUN.org, a website dedicated to providing up-to-date information and resources on reform efforts at the United Nations. The following is an update on nine reform issues.

Human Rights Council

On 9 May 2006, the General Assembly elected the 47 founding members of the UN's new Human Rights Council for staggered 1-3 year terms. The first members on the Council will have the responsibility of developing the Council's architecture, including its agenda, working methods, rules and procedures as well as mechanisms for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). While several countries with notably poor human rights records (Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, China, Azerbaijan, Cuba, Russia) were elected, others such as Iran and Venezuela did not receive enough votes, while countries previously on the Commission on Human rights were dissuaded from even running (Sudan, Zimbabwe, Syria, Libya, Nepal, Eritrea and Ethiopia). In May the Council elected Mexico as president for its first year. Luis Alfonso de Alba, who has been Mexico's

representative to the international organizations in Geneva, was designated by the government to take up the presidency on June 19, at the commencement of the first Session.

While the Commission on Human Rights played an instrumental role in establishing a strong framework of human rights norms and standards, its credibility and effectiveness were eroded by its membership, selective approach, and lack of implementation capacity, according to the December 2004 High Level Panel Report and the Secretary-General's subsequent report. The GA then engaged in a long series of negotiations to create a new body redressing the Commission's weaknesses. On 15 March 2006, General Assembly resolution 60/251 created a new Human Rights Council in a vote of 170 to 4 (Israel, US, Palau, Marshall Islands) with 3 abstentions (Belarus, Iran, Venezuela).

The Council will be responsible for promoting and protecting all human rights, addressing human rights violations, and promoting effective coordination and mainstreaming of human rights within the UN system. Unlike

the 53-member Commission which met for six weeks per year and was a subsidiary body of ECOSOC, the 47-member Human Rights Council will be a subsidiary body of the General Assembly and will meet for a minimum of three sessions for no less than ten weeks per year, with the ability to convene additional sessions, theoretically allowing it to respond more quickly to urgent human rights abuses. Further, to avoid attracting members whose purpose in joining the Council is to block scrutiny of their human rights records, members of the Human Rights Council will be the first countries subject to the UPR, which will assess fulfillment of countries' human rights obligations and commitments and which can lead to the suspension of membership for a Council member that commits gross and systematic violations of human rights. These changes represent important steps forward. The Council also will maintain key strengths of the Commission such as its system of special procedures, mechanisms for NGO participation and country-specific resolutions.

Secretariat/Management Reform

Currently the General Assembly is focusing on two areas: reforming the overall structure and culture of the UN Secretariat; and undertaking a review of all UN mandates older than five years.

Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide

To complement the current reviews on oversight and internal justice, the Secretary-General released his report "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide," on 7 March 2006. In this report, the Secretary-General presents 23 recommendations in six areas (people, leadership, information and communications technology, delivering services, budget and finance, and governance) for a radical overhaul of the UN Secretariat.

The SG has focused on several goals, including enhancing the Secretariat's



In 'Historic' Vote, General Assembly Creates New UN Human Rights Council. Wide view of the plenary meeting of the General Assembly during which that body, in a historic decision, voted 170 in favour and four against, to establish the new United Nations Human Rights Council, on 9 May 2006 at UN Headquarters in New York. Credit: UN Photo/Evan Schneider

ability to manage complex operations; delegating management tasks to the Deputy Secretary-General while building middle and senior management capacity; exploring new ways of delivering services such as relocation and outsourcing; shortening the cycle for reviewing and adopting the budget with consolidation of budget appropriations; giving the SG expanded authority to redeploy posts and use available savings; creating a results-oriented budget monitoring and evaluation framework; and enhancing transparency and accountability of the budget and decision-making processes.

Developing countries interpreted the recommendations as an encroachment upon their already limited authority within the UN. The GA's Fifth Committee, which covers budgetary and administrative decision-making, voted 108 to 50 (3 abstentions) to approve a resolution introduced by South Africa, on behalf of the G77, calling for the Secretariat to produce 10 additional detailed reports. This will significantly delay if not block progress on Secretariat and management reform. The resolution was opposed by the US, EU and Japan and may provoke some of the larger donors to reduce dues or suspend funds to the UN's assessed budget.

Mandating and delivering: analysis and recommendations to facilitate the review of mandates

On 30 March 2006, the Secretary-General introduced his report for the GA's mandate review, "Mandating and delivering: analysis and recommendations to facilitate the review of mandates." An analytical framework for the mandate review, the report is accompanied by an electronic database of mandates, which provides Member States with access to information on the Organization's mandates that are older than five years and the GA, ECOSOC or Security Council resolutions from which they derive. A mandate is a request for action by implementing entities of the UN, originating in a resolution of the GA or another organ. The Secretary-General's Report outlines problems that the mandate review should address, including: burden-



Security Council Establishes Peacebuilding Commission to Advise on Post-Conflict Situations. Wide view of the Security Council unanimously adopting resolution 1646 (2005) establishing a peacebuilding commission to advise on post conflict situations, today at UN Headquarters. Credit: UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz

some reporting requirements; overlap between and within organs; an unwieldy and duplicative architecture for implementation; and gaps between mandates and resources.

Member States have begun consultations on the individual clusters in the report on: international peace and security; sustained growth and sustainable development; development of Africa; human rights; coordination of humanitarian assistance; justice and international law; disarmament; drug control/crime prevention/combating international terrorism; gender equality and empowerment of women; and research and training institutes.

Progress has been made on management and secretariat reform in the following additional areas: establishment of an ethics office; agreement to establish an independent audit advisory committee; preparation of an official whistleblower policy and a comprehensive policy on the prevention of fraud and corruption; terms of reference prepared for an independent external evaluation of the UN's oversight system; establishment of a working group to develop proposals on budgetary, financial and human resources policy; and establishment of a management performance board.

Development/ECOSOC reform

Two draft resolutions on development and ECOSOC reform set out measures to improve current development efforts, such as follow-up on the major conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. The draft resolution on ECOSOC reform attempts to establish a more coherent framework of high-level dialogues to enhance ECOSOC's coordinating role in global economic affairs. This framework would consist of a High-Level Segment with Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD and would include biennial and annual dialogues, cooperation review, and substantive review on development issues. Currently, member states continue to negotiate on both draft resolutions.

Security Council Reform

The open-ended working group on Security Council reform issues resumed its work on 20 April 2006. On 20 March 2006, Switzerland along with Singapore, Liechtenstein, Jordan and Costa Rica tabled their draft resolution calling for reform of the Security Council's working methods to enhance transparency and accountability and to improve collabora-

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tion between the Council and the larger UN membership. The draft resolution outlines 19 recommendations, including measures for greater transparency over sanctions and peacekeeping operations and mechanisms to limit the use of the veto in cases of large-scale human rights abuse. The group decided to move forward on their resolution after noting lack of progress on Security Council enlargement. Proposals for reform of Security Council membership have been submitted by four groups of countries plus Japan.

System-Wide Coherence

Based on paragraph 169 in the World Summit Outcome Document, which looks to “strengthen the management and coordination of the UN’s operational activities,” the Secretary-General established a 15 member high-level panel to carry out a study and make recommendations on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and the Environment. The panel, co-chaired by Prime Ministers Shaukat Aziz of Pakistan, Luisa Dias Diogo of Mozambique, and Jens Stoltenberg of Norway, consists largely of political leaders. It is hoped that the high-level nature of the panel will enhance political ownership of the final recommendations.

The study, which will look primarily at organizational and funding issues, will attempt to assess how the UN system works, identify comparative advantages, identify areas of overlap and duplication of work products across UN agencies, and provide recommendations on rationalization to maximize resources and minimize overhead and administrative costs. The panel plans to complete the study during the 61st session of the GA for possible implementation in 2007.

GA Revitalization

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the General Assembly was established to develop and submit a report with recommendations to the General Assembly during the 60th session. The Working Group has begun consultations on the role and authority of the

GA, the working methods and agenda of the GA, and the role of the GA in the selection of the Secretary-General.

HIV/AIDS

The General Assembly convened the follow-up session to the 2001 Declaration of Commitment to HIV/AIDS on 31 May 2006 in order to evaluate progress, consider further recommendations, and renew commitments to take action against HIV/AIDS. In an opening statement to the High Level Plenary Session, GA President Jan Eliasson commended the three-day meeting for its unprecedented level of interaction between civil society and Member States; approximately 800 civil society organizations were in attendance. The meeting resulted in a draft outcome declaration on recommended measures to further the efforts against HIV/AIDS.

UN Democracy Fund

On 6 March 2006, the Secretary-General led the inaugural meeting of the UN Democracy Fund, which consists of a 17-member advisory board. The fund, which was endorsed in the Summit Outcome Document, has been established to set up projects in different countries to strengthen democratic institutions, enhance democratic governments as well as institute the rule of law, independent courts, a free press, political parties, trade unions, etc. Thus far the fund has received pledges from 17 countries amounting to \$41 million. The projects are to be assessed by the Fund’s staff.

Central Emergency Response Fund

On 9 March 2006, the UN launched its \$500 million Central Emergency Response Fund to provide more rapid, effective and predictable/balanced disaster response. Thus far the Fund has attracted \$256 million in pledges from governments and it will eventually accept donations from corporations and individuals. Preparations for the first disbursements of funds for relief efforts in the Horn of Africa and Cote d’Ivoire are currently underway. In April the Secretary-General appointed a 12 member Advisory Group of independent experts in humanitarian

affairs. The group will provide periodic policy guidance and expert advice to the SG on the use and impact of the Fund and assess its performance against the objectives set by the SG.

Environment

Based on paragraph 169 of the Summit Outcome Document on “Environmental activities”, the GA began informal consultations on the institutional framework for the UN’s environmental activities in April 2006. The consultations seek to identify some of the main problems and challenges of the UN system in its environmental work and ways to build a more coherent institutional framework to address such challenges. The main needs highlighted in paragraph 169 of the outcome document include: enhanced coordination; improved policy advice/guidance; strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation; better treaty compliance; and better integration of environmental activities in the sustainable development framework at the operational level. In January the Secretariat prepared a background note outlining the current institutional framework for the UN system’s environmental activities.

Terrorism

While the GA’s Sixth Committee continues to work on completing the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, the GA plenary initiated consultations on a counter-terrorism strategy based on a report issued by the Secretary General on 27 April 2006, “Uniting against terrorism: recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy.” The report outlines five pillars to guide Member States in shaping a comprehensive strategy: dissuading people from resorting to terrorism; denying terrorists the means to carry out an attack; deterring states from supporting terrorism; developing state capacity to prevent terrorism; and defending human rights. Member States currently are debating how to proceed.

Seher Khawaja was WFM-IGP Program Associate through June 2006.

Peacebuilding Commission

By Heather Sonner

The commitment to establish a new intergovernmental body at the UN, tasked with bringing sustained attention, more resources and better coordinated strategies to countries just emerging from violent conflict, was hailed as one of the successes of the World Summit in September. WFM-IGP monitored negotiations on the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and forcefully argued for a reference to the role of civil society in peacebuilding, which would recognize the need for the Commission to consult with diverse NGOs in its work. At the end of December, NGOs around the world welcomed the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), as well as the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund.

The PBC, comprised of 31 member states, will hold its first meeting at the end of June. The Commission will meet in country-specific meetings with the various institutional and government stakeholders in a selected country, likely including major troop contributors, donor countries, UN representatives, the IMF and World Bank, regional organizations and the country-concerned. The PBC will likely work to bridge gaps in the UN system and share information on best-practices from country to country.

WFM-IGP is working vigorously to help organize NGOs that work in peacebuilding to call for open and sustained engagement between civil society, particularly those in countries the PBC is reviewing, and the PBC members. WFM-IGP supports efforts to build local ownership through two-way dialogue between the populations who live in the selected countries and the stakeholders represented in the PBC at UN HQ.

With many NGO partners including the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, WFM-IGP lobbies governments to support an open and transparent Commission.

Heather Sonner is WFM-IGP Program Consultant.

Coalition for the International Criminal Court

By Esti Tambay

New CICC Website

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) recently launched a new and improved website (www.iccnw.org), which presents new information on particular issues and campaigns that the Coalition monitors and reflects developments at the Court, including the ICC's developing cases and situations. The website's enhanced design and organization ensure that the Coalition will remain one of the key sources of information on the ICC.

Universal Ratification Campaign

The Coalition continues its exciting Universal Ratification Campaign (URC) focusing on one country each month, rotating to a different region each time. The target country for April 2006 is Azerbaijan. As part of this important campaign, CICC urges all its members in every region to redouble efforts to ensure universal acceptance of the ICC.

Election of ICC Judges

On 26 January 2006, the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC (ASP) elected six of the 18 judges of the ICC. They will serve full terms of nine

years. Five judges have been re-elected: Hans-Peter Kaul (Germany), Erkki Kourula (Finland), Akua Kuenyehia (Ghana), Sang-Hyun Song (Republic of Korea) and Anita Ušacka (Latvia). New to the bench is Ekaterina Trendafilova from Bulgaria, who will replace Tuiloma Neroni Slade from Samoa.

The Coalition in conjunction with the Women's Initiative for Gender Justice held two panels with candidates prior to the election to provide an opportunity for candidates to discuss their experience and qualifications. The CICC also circulated a questionnaire to all candidates and posted their responses as well as any information related to the election on its website. While the CICC is committed to upholding the Rome Statute principles of competence and fair regional and gender representation and promoting the nomination and election of the most highly qualified candidates through a fair and transparent process, the Coalition as a whole, and its Secretariat, did not take a position on any individual candidates.

Esti Tambay is CICC Information and Analysis Officer.



Six judges of the ICC were elected in January 2006 and sworn in on 10 March 2006. (l-r) Judge Erkki Kourula (Finland), Judge Anita Ušacka (Latvia), Judge Hans Peter Kaul (Germany), Judge Akua Kuenyehia (Ghana), Judge Ekaterina Trendafilova (Bulgaria), and Judge Sang-hyun Song (Republic of Korea). Credit: ICC-CPI/Hans Hordijk.

WFM Member Organization Updates

By Stephanie Getson & Elisabeth Garrett

Union of European Federalists and Young European Federalists call for support of the Duff -Voggenhuber report

In January, the UEF and JEF sent joint letters to European civil society organizations as well as to local, regional and national parliaments and governments, to draw their attention to the innovations of the Duff -Voggenhuber report. This report, drafted by the co-rapporteurs of the European Parliament's (EP) Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Andrew Duff and Johannes Voggenhuber, proposes to organize parliamentary and citizens' forums in order to ensure a broad public debate about the future of Europe, and the active participation of all stakeholders in the current "period of reflection."

In their letters, the UEF and JEF Presidents ask NGOs, institutions and authorities to support the report's propositions. Parliamentarians along with governments were asked to participate actively in the "Parliamentary Forums" and "Citizens' Forums" and to ensure that the EP's "European Papers" summarizing the debate could be of the best possible quality. Civil society was asked to pressure their parliamentarians and governments to realize these Forums. This would guarantee that European politics as well as the Constitution are truly brought to the people.

For more information on this campaign, contact the Union of European Federalists at: info@federaleurope.org.

WFM - Canada calls for United Nations Response to Crimes in Darfur

WFM - Canada calls for Canada to take a lead role in urging the United Nations Security Council to respond more effectively to the humanitarian crimes that have been committed in the Darfur region of Western Sudan. "Canada must speak out loudly and clearly for decisive action by the UN Security Council," says WFM - Canada President, Warren Allmand. For more information, contact WFM - Canada at: wfcnat@web.net.

One World Trust Issues Paper on Rwanda, Darfur, and the UK Parliament

OWT has issued a paper considering the attention that the UK Parliament gave to the genocide in Rwanda and the crisis in Darfur ten years later. It argues that Parliament has a clear role to play ensuring that the UK contributes to the promotion of a coherent international response to such crises, and identifies how this role can be fulfilled.

To access the paper, visit www.oneworldtrust.org.

The Government of Japan Creates Foreign Affairs Post on World Federalism

In December 2005, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOF) created a post "for taking care of a variety of issues concerning a World Federation." Both WFM Japan and the Japanese Parliamentary Group for World Government are thanked in the official statement issued by the MOF. The creation of this post follows from the fact that the Japanese National Diet adopted a resolution advocating for a World Federation in its plenary session of the Lower House on August 2, 2005. WFM congratulates both groups and hopes that other Parliaments will follow the lead of the Japanese Diet.

Citizens for Global Solutions readies for the 2006 US Congressional Elections

With less than a year before the 2006 congressional elections, the Citizens for Global Solutions Political Action Committee (PAC) has shifted into high gear. In 2006, Citizens for Global Solutions will build upon techniques fine-tuned during the 2004 election cycle. They have developed a candidate questionnaire, begun analyzing races and started raising funds. They will continue to support incumbents and key challengers who share our vision, are engaged in close races and champion policy

goals on Capitol Hill. They plan to raise and distribute \$100,000 to make an important difference in competitive races, identify key contests and provide significant support for staff coordinators on the ground. CGS also works to strengthen the internationalist wing of the Republican Party by seeking out globally minded Republican primary candidates.

For more information, contact Citizens for Global Solutions at: info@globalsolutions.org.

Committee for a Democratic UN (KDUN) proposes a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN

The Committee for a Democratic UN has been striving towards the realization of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, UNPA. Having the support of the European Parliament, the German Bundestag, IPU and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, KDUN continues to seek the establishment of an elected "world parliament".

The concept of UNPA puts the notion of "parliamentary dimension" into institutionally concrete terms for reform. The model proposed would complement the General Assembly (GA) with a consultative parliamentary institution, through a convergence with the IPU through a suitable cooperation agreement, but also by establishing a subsidiary body to the GA according to Art. 22 UN-Charter. In the long run the UNPA could be vested with real authority within the framework of comprehensive UN reform.

The UNPA appeal has the support of 214 distinguished individuals from 62 countries, including 137 serving members of parliament in 52 countries. The appeal will be published in October 2006.

Stephanie Getson was Outreach and Membership Assistant. She had been replaced by Elisabeth Garrett, who serves as Executive and Membership Assistant.