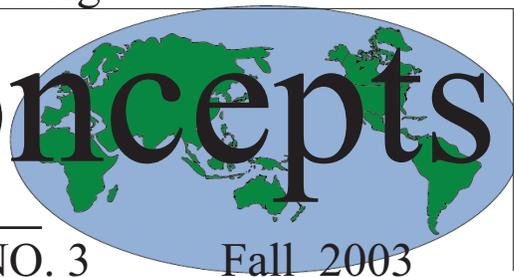


Global Concepts



G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER VOL. 21 NO. 3

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MANNY'S CORNER

Collective Approach and Collective Security

On September 23, 2003, more than 80 Heads of State and Governments convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York for high-level debates on global issues at the General Assembly. The major issues ranged from peace and security to United Nations reform, global poverty and underdevelopment, to terrorism. Underneath the issues, there was repeated emphasis on multilateralism in resolving the issues facing the United Nations and the need for a collective approach to meet world challenges and expectations.

In the words of President Stjepan Mesic of Croatia, "We are living in a world where no one can go it alone, without the help of others, however big and powerful they may be; global solutions require the concerted and united efforts of all countries and inhabitants of our planet."

Declaring that there was no doubt the UN needs to be reformed, especially with regard to the 15-member Security Council, he added: "What is required is the adherence to the principle of equitable representation of all United Nations members in the Security Council."

Mr. Annan, the Secretary General, was critical of a pre-emptive approach, where the interests of a specific country had a serious impact on the entire

global community. Underlining the issue of collective security, Secretary General Annan stated that "the UN now has to decide whether radical change was needed in the face of this new doctrine of pre-emptive force." He announced that he was setting up a high-level panel of eminent personalities to make recommendations on issues ranging from peace and security to reform of UN structures.

"The new doctrine represented a fundamental challenge to the principles of collective security and the UN Charter, which had guided the world body since its foundation," Mr. Annan said, and he was concerned it could lead to a proliferation of unilateral and lawless use of force.

While the Charter affords countries the inherent right of self-defense if attacked, until now it has been understood that when States go beyond that, and decide to use force to deal with broader threats to international peace and security, they need the unique legitimacy provided by the United Nations, he declared.

The Secretary General indicated his concern that if this principle of pre-emptive strike is widely used "it could set precedents that resulted in a proliferation of the unilateral and lawless use of force, with or without credible justification," and persistent violence, particularly in the Middle East. To resolve the international disputes, the global economic, social and political ills and growing disparities among nations, the international community must apply universal rules of conduct. There appeared to be unanimity in making structural changes in United Nations, particularly the Security Council to make the United Nations a more effective instrument of international peace, prosperity and security in the 21st century.





Confronting Issues

PAST YEAR A 'TRYING' ONE FOR UN.

The past year has been a "trying" one in terms of peace and security, with the War in Iraq severely testing the principle of collective security and the resilience of the United Nations, Secretary-General Kofi Annan says in his annual report on the work of the UN released Sep 15 2003.

"Rarely in its fifty-eight-year history have such dire forecasts been made about the United Nations," the Secretary-General writes in advance of the next session of the General Assembly. "The United Nations will emerge strengthened if we make a measured appreciation of what happened, think about the sort of organization we want in the future, and start making the necessary changes."

Recounting the various peace operations of the UN, the Secretary-General noted that peace agreements by themselves mark only the first step in bringing lasting peace and prosperity to war-torn societies. "Countries emerging from civil strife must find their own paths to humane governance and national reconciliation, but international assistance will often be necessary." "The United Nations is not an end in itself," the Secretary-General says. "Rather, it is an instrument for achieving common ends. The strength and effectiveness of the organization depends on the active support of its Member States and their policies. In calculating their national interests, they should give due weight to the value and importance of a just and stable world order."

PEACE AND JUSTICE Saying there were no easy answers to the contradictory pressures of justice and reconciliation in restoring stability to conflict-shattered countries, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan today Sep 24 2003 called for more resources and greater effort

as the world body seeks to enhance the rule of law in its peace operations.

"There cannot be real peace without justice," Mr. Annan told a ministerial meeting of the Security Council on the role of the United Nations in justice and the rule of law, stressing that "people lose faith in the peace process in the face of impunity for past grievous crimes and without a restoration of justice in rebuilding shattered societies".

GREECE INTRODUCES OLYMPICS TRUCE RESOLUTION INTO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, Sep 26, 2003

Greece introduced the traditional Olympics resolution into the United Nations General Assembly today calling for a truce during next year's summer games in Athens, and Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the measure took on added significance with the event returning to its ancient homeland.

SAFE WATER:

With more than 2 million children dying each year from water-borne diseases, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on the international community to avoid further dangerous delays and move from pledges to action in order to halve by 2015 the proportion of people lacking safe drinking water and sanitation.

"It is also crucial for the success of our fight against poverty, hunger and disease," he said, noting that the UN Millennium Summit pledged to halve by 2015 the proportion of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water, and last year's Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development vowed to do likewise for those without access to basic sanitation.

ON TRADE

Kofi Annan made an impassioned plea to the world's richest countries to allow the world's poorest to benefit from globalization instead of being its victims, granting them access to cheap

generic drugs, ending subsidies undermining their agriculture and opening up markets to their textiles.

“You must give them confidence that, from now on, your negotiations and decisions will really meet their needs and reflect their aspirations. You have an awesome responsibility, and a great opportunity. Your decisions can make the difference between poverty and prosperity, and even between life and death, for millions upon millions of people”.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL BIOSAFETY TREATY

The first legally binding international treaty aimed at curbing potential harm to human health and biological diversity from biotechnology went into force today, with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan calling on the entire international community to fully implement its terms.

Adopted in January 2000 by States parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety establishes comprehensive rules for the safe transfer, handling and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) by providing countries with relevant information to make informed decisions on importing living modified organisms(LMO).

LANDMINES

More than two-thirds of all countries have banned anti-personnel mines since a landmark treaty came into force in 1999, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan noted today, calling on nations that have not yet done so to ratify the accord prohibiting the use of the deadly weapons.

“I call on those states that have not yet accepted the Convention to become part of this process without delay” and to do their utmost to clear mine-ridden areas, Mr. Annan said in a message to the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,

Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, being held in Bangkok.

“The multilateral commitment embodied in the Convention to renounce an entire category of indiscriminate weapons has been achieved through the combined efforts of many actors.”

RADIATION-SHIELDING OZONE

With melanoma and other skin cancers killing 66,000 people each year, much of it due to the sun’s ultraviolet radiation, the children being specially vulnerable, United Nations Secretary General called for even greater global effort to save the world’s radiation-shielding ozone layer. Mr. Annan praised progress made under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer, ratified by 184 countries.

CHILD ABUSE

Almost 3,500 children under the age of 15 die every year from physical abuse and neglect in developed nations, according to a new report on maltreatment published today by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF Innocenti Report Card, which brings together data on the abuse of youngsters from 27 developed countries, indicates that a small group of countries - Greece, Italy, Ireland, Norway and Spain - appear to have an exceptionally low incidence of child maltreatment death.

The United States, Mexico and Portugal have rates that are between 10 and 15 times higher, while Belgium, the Czech Republic, New Zealand, Hungary and France, however, reach levels that are four to six times higher.

“The thousands of children who die each year from violence in their homes, schools or communities are clear proof that the world has systematically failed to protect them,” UNICEF said in launching the Report.

SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD

123 million children are being left out as classrooms around the world open their doors for the start of the new school year. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director Carol Bellamy stated "this is a disheartening reality in a world where education is the right of every child."

Globally, some 66 million girls of school age are not in school. While the gender gap in enrollment has narrowed over the last decade, girls are still the ones most often denied their right to go to school, and those who do attend drop out.

FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

The United Nations General Assembly on September 22, convened a high-level meeting to discuss a report by Secretary-General Kofi Annan on progress in the worldwide fight against HIV/AIDS.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan today called on the international community to drastically step up its battle against HIV/AIDS if there is to be any hope of starting to reduce the scale and impact of the epidemic by 2005, as pledged in the Declaration of Commitment adopted two years ago.

ON TERRORISM

The war against terrorism demands a rational not emotional response, and victory can be assured only by offering a superior vision of a better world that upholds human rights even in the heat of the very battle against terrorists and tackles the root causes of despair, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said today. Sep 22 2003.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PLAN

Voicing "great concern" at recent Israeli and Palestinian attacks that have stalled the Middle East peace process, a high-level meeting of the diplomatic Quartet of the United Nations, United States, Russian Federation and European Union (EU) today (Sep 26 2003) called on both sides to take immediate action to revive the so-called Road Map peace plan.

"Each party must do more to address, immediately and simultaneously, the core concerns of the other, as described in the Road Map," UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, reading out a statement after the Principals-level meeting at UN Headquarters in New York with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, US Secretary of State Colin Powell, and an EU delegation comprising Foreign Minister Franco Frattini of Italy, which currently holds the EU Presidency, Chris Patten, External Relations Commissioner of the European Commission, and Javier Solana, EU High Representative for a Common Foreign and Security Policy.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Contradicting conventional wisdom, the largest-ever worldwide collaborative study of heart disease has found that women are slightly more likely to die from cardiovascular disease (CVD) than men and that heart attacks and strokes kill twice as many women as all cancers combined, according to the United Nations health agency's report, Sep 26 2003.

Out of the total 16.5 million CVD deaths annually, 8.6 million are of women, according to the study, the MONICA (Monitoring Cardiovascular disease) Monograph, the result of a major research project conceived in 1979 in which teams from 38 populations in 21 countries studied heart disease, stroke and risk factors from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s. The report was released by the World Health Organization (WHO) in connection with World Heart Day, whose theme this year, "Women, Heart Disease and Stroke", aims to draw urgent attention to the fact that CVD is not just a men's health problem.

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- * Become a member
- * Sign up for conferences and activities
- * Become a volunteer and so much more



Upcoming Events

Local, National and International

October 2, 2003, 9:00-2:00 p.m. International Career Conference- University of Kansas Union Ballroom.

October 11, 2003, 7:00p.m. Sister City Association, Annual Gala Banquet, Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza Hotel.

October 14, 2003, 7:00p.m. The Mayor's United Nations Day Event, Gillian Martin Sorensen, Assistant UN Secretary General, "Current Myths and Facts: The Relevance of the United Nations." Adams Mark Hotel.

October 18, 2003, 10:00 am –10 p.m. The Rolling Thunder Down-Home Democracy Tour. Penn Valley Community College.

October 19, 2003, 8:45 & 11:15 a.m. Annual United Nations Sunday Service, "Waters of Life", Rev. Jim Eller and UUUNO Committee, All Souls Unitarian Church.

November 7-9, 2003, 2003 Peace Colloquy, featuring 1980 Nobel Peace Laureate Adolfo Perez Esquivel, "Nurturing Families for Today and Tomorrow." Community of Christ.

November 8, 2003, 7:00 p.m. Life After War, Sarah Chayes, former NPR reporter and current Kandahar Director for Afghans for Civil Society. All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church.

November 9, 2003 2:00 p.m., G.A.M.E. Board of Director's meeting

November 13, 2003 11:00am 3:00 p.m., Moving the CRC forward in the United States.

Bahai's of the US, 1320 19th Street NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20036. Reports from all working groups.

November 19, 2003 5:30 p.m., UNA Board of Directors. UMKC Hyde Park Room

December 2-5, 2003, The Hague, Netherlands, United Nations meeting: The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Executive Council.

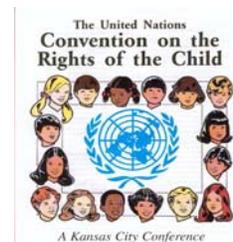
December 11, 2003, New York, U.N. First meeting of States Parties to the International Convention on the Right of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

December 21, 2003, World Peace Day held annually on the winter solstice. Bells throughout the world are ringing in hopes of bringing world peace.



G.A.M.E. CRC Task Force Created

The Global and Multicultural Education Center's Speaker's Bureau is prepared to speak to any group interested in learning



about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Presenters will talk about the importance of this international convention and the need for its ratification. To request a speaker for your meeting or event, please call Joyce Cox at 913-942-6307 or the G.A.M.E. Office at 816-753-2372.

US MARKS RETURN TO UNESCO

The United States marked its return to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) today,



(Sep 29 2003), nearly two decades after it withdrew, with a flag raising ceremony at the agency's headquarters in Paris, attended by First Lady Laura Bush.

The ceremony, at the start of UNESCO's 32nd General Conference, brings the number of Member States to 190, leaving only Singapore among the countries that left the Organization yet to rejoin.

(The US withdrew from UNESCO in 1984.)

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 Organizations/schools..... \$ 25.00 ___

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Address _____ City, State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: Home: _____ email _____

I would like to contribute an additional \$ _____ for educational use of the organization.

Your membership and contributions are tax exempt.

We thank you for your support.

Our Mission Statement: G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity

GLOBAL CONCEPTS

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