

UNA-Westchester Global Connection



United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) Westchester Chapter

<http://www.unawestchester.org>

November/December 2009

Cosponsored by UNA-Westchester, Pace Law School, Citizens for Global Solutions,
Unitarian Universalist UN Office, and Westchester Bar Association

Perspectives on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and U.S. Membership

Tuesday, December 1, 2009, 5:00 P.M.



Pace University Law School
Preston Hall - Tudor Room*
52 North Broadway, White Plains, NY



Featuring:

Mr. John Washburn
*Director and Convener, American
NGO Coalition for the ICC (AMICC)*

and

Prof. Jide Nzelibe
*Visiting Professor at NYU and
Professor of Law, Northwestern
University School of Law*

Moderated by Prof. Alexander Greenawalt (Pace University Law School)

The ICC is a permanent treaty-based criminal court that can try individuals for designated atrocity crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity, and serious war crimes. The Court came into being in 2002 under the Rome Statute. Current cases before the court involve individuals from Congo, Uganda, and Sudan. To date, 110 countries have joined the ICC. The United States has not. Our speakers will present different views on the advantages and disadvantages of the ICC and U.S. membership in it.

A question and answer period will follow the program and refreshments will be served.

*Directions: Take Rt. 287 to exit 6 for Rte. 22 (North Broadway). Go South on North Broadway to the sixth traffic light and turn left onto the campus, at 52 North Broadway. From the entrance, Preston Hall is the second building on the left. By train:

http://www.pace.edu/page.cfm?doc_id=23100.

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Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

For our program, Perspectives on the International Criminal Court, on Thursday December 1 at Pace Law School in White Plains, we are taking a new approach by



inviting our sister group, the Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS), to jointly host this event with us. Don Kraus, CEO of CGS, Lucy Webster, the President of their Tri-State Chapter, and many CGS members from Westchester will be at our event. Some of you, like me, are members of both UNA-Westchester and CGS. While both organizations support the UN and U.S. leadership in the UN, each organization brings something unique to process. In the table below I try to highlight the opportunities we have for complementary cooperation:

UNA: 1. Apolitical; 2. Local public meetings; 3. Active local membership; 4. High school essay contest

CGS: 1. PAC and Congressional Report Card; 2. Strong presence on Internet and teleconferences; 3. Expansive membership; 4. Multimedia contest

While this table is far from comprehensive, I hope it gives an idea of how our two organizations could be stronger working together—as we will on December 1. I encourage you to check out www.globalsolutions.org and hope you will come to join our CGS colleagues from Westchester in learning more about the International Criminal Court.

Our distinguished speakers for the December 1 program are:

John Washburn, the Convener of the American Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition on the International Criminal Court (AMICC), a program of the UNA-USA. His areas of expertise include the ICC, UN issues in U.S. politics, negotiation methods at the UN, and the current role of NGOs at the UN. Mr. Washburn has attended most of the UN negotiations on the ICC since 1994, including the 1998 diplomatic conference in Rome, and has published a number of articles on relations between the UN and the United States, including on the ICC treaty. He served as Director in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and as a Director in the UN's Department of Political Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. Foreign Service from 1963 to 1987, during which he served on U.S. delegations to the UN General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and other bodies. For more information about Mr. Washburn, contact UNA-USA at 212-907-1300.

Jide Nzelibe is a visiting professor of law at NYU Law School and is a full professor at Northwestern University's Faculty of Law. He previously served as a visiting professor of law and as a Bigelow Teaching Fellow and Lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School. In addition to his J.D. from Yale Law School, he also holds an MPA in international relations from Princeton University, where he was awarded a fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and a predoctoral fellowship from the Ford Foundation. His research interests include international trade, international humanitarian law, and contracts. He has written articles on the deterrence effects of international criminal tribunals and on the unintended consequences of humanitarian intervention.

Alexander K. A. Greenawalt joined the Pace faculty in 2006 from the firm of

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP (2001–06), where his practice focused on international disputes. He was a teaching fellow at Columbia Law School in 2005 and was previously a clerk for the Honorable Stephen F. Williams of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (2000–01). Professor Greenawalt is a graduate of Columbia Law School, where he was a James Kent Scholar and Articles Editor of the *Columbia Law Review*.

Phil Reynolds
President, UNA-Westchester

Call for Mentors from UN Staff

The Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC) group at UNA-Westchester is looking for current or former UN staff to provide mentoring for young professionals. If you want to get involved, please send your CV to Amanda Raz, our YPIC representative, at raza@mville.edu.

Obama Reengages the U.S. in Climate Change Talks

U.S. President Barack Obama was well received at his appearances at three important meetings at the United Nations from 22 to 24 September: the Climate Change Summit; the annual Heads of State general debate in the General Assembly; and as Chair of the Security Council Summit on Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation. The President expressed his intention to work with the United Nations, and conveyed his appreciation for the good work that the UN has been doing in some areas, although he believes it needs considerable improvement and reform in others. This demonstrated his seriousness and sincerity of purpose, and was applauded by his fellow Heads of State.

This article focuses on the Summit on Climate Change held on 22 September, as that meeting foreshadows the negotiations to be held in Copenhagen in December.

In this article, Narinder Kakar outlines the positions that were expressed by the main actors at the one-day Summit, which attracted about 100 world leaders. At the Summit, most of the attention was on U.S. President Obama, Chinese President Hu Jintao, and the new Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama. They all vowed to take the threat of climate change seriously.

The Summit was not meant to serve as a negotiating forum or as a pledging conference. Those negotiations will take place at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December. The purpose of this meeting was to take advantage of the presence of so many Heads of State and Government and to sensitize them about the seriousness of the situation. They were able to exchange views and discuss the issues with each other and with diverse nongovernmental and private sector groups.

The U.S. and China each account for about 20% of the world's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions created when coal, natural gas, and oil are burned. The European Union is next, generating nearly 15%, followed by Russia and India with 4%–5% each.

President Obama told his counterparts that his administration would “meet its responsibility to future generations,” even though measures to reduce emissions would be costly and difficult at a time of economic recession. He stated that his administration had made the “largest-ever” U.S. investment in renewable energy: planning to double the generating capacity from wind and other renewable resources in three years, launching offshore wind energy projects, and spending billions to capture carbon pollution from coal plants.

China's President Hu vowed that China would plant enough forest to cover an area the size of Norway and would generate 15%

of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2020. However, he also emphasized that China and other developing economies should not have to agree to mandatory cuts in GHG emissions. China wants developed nations to cut their emissions by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020 and to give far more aid and green technologies to developing nations.

President Obama wants to cut U.S. emissions back to 1990 levels by 2020 and by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. “We will press ahead with deep cuts in emissions to reach the goals that we set for 2020, and eventually 2050.” On finance, the United States agreed that a “dramatic increase” is needed in funds to help developing nations.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a climate bill in June that would set the first mandatory limits on greenhouse gases. The House bill would require large companies, including utilities and oil refineries, to cut emissions by 17% by 2020 and 83% by 2050, from 2005 levels. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee voted in favor of a Senate climate bill in early November that included a target of reducing emissions by 20% from 2005 levels by 2020.

Leaders of the European Union (EU) agreed in December 2008 to cut emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2020 and by 30% if other developed countries followed suit. EU leaders have agreed that developing nations will need over \$140 billion per year by 2020 to help them curb emissions and adapt to changes such as floods and heat waves. They also demanded that developing countries curb the rise of their emissions by 15% to 30% below a trajectory of “business as usual” by 2020.

Japan’s new Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama wants to cut Japan’s emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 if an

ambitious deal is agreed at Copenhagen, raising the goal set by the previous government of an 8 % reduction. He said that Japan was prepared to offer more financial and technical assistance than in the past, “in accordance with the progress of the international negotiations.” He underscored the need for developed countries to contribute substantial new and additional public and private financing to assist developing nations and to promote the transfer of low-carbon technologies.

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has said that Russia would lower emissions by 10% to 15% below 1990 levels by 2020. That actually means a rise from current levels, as emissions were 34% below 1990 levels in 2007. He recently stated that Russia would reject any new climate pact that imposed restrictions on Russia but did not bind other big polluters such as the U.S. or China.

India is prepared to quantify the amount of GHG emissions it could cut with domestic actions to fight climate change, but it will not accept internationally binding targets. India has said that its per capita emissions will never rise to match those of developed nations. Along with China, it wants developed nations to cut emissions by at least 40% by 2020, as they are primarily responsible for emissions since the Industrial Revolution.

Several leaders of other nations—both rich and poor—tried to ratchet up the political pressure for more ambitious GHG reductions. The President of Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed, who spoke immediately after President Obama, warned that unless the international community acted quickly and decisively, the Maldives and other small island developing States (SIDS) would disappear beneath the rising sea before the end of the century.

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In Case You Missed It: Millennium Villages Project Event October 15th

To celebrate the 64th birthday of the United Nations, the Chapter held an excellent program on October 15 at Concordia College to discuss approaches to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000, the MDGs are specific global targets for reducing extreme poverty and hunger by half, while improving education, health, gender equality, and environmental sustainability, by 2015.

Patrick Haverman, UN Development Programme (UNDP) Project Adviser on the Millennium Villages Project, discussed the status of attainment of the goals and presented the Millennium Villages approach. That project, a collaborative effort of UNDP, Millennium Promise, and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, seeks to make concrete advances toward these global targets in 79 African villages. Addressing the full range of village requirements, the project trains farmers in more productive techniques and helps communities obtain fertilizer, clean water and sanitation, and treated bed nets to combat malaria. The project also eliminates school fees for primary school and provides other support to lift the village from poverty and disease. The project's goal is to replicate its success across all of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), which it is estimated could be achieved with increases in overseas development assistance up to the UN target level of 0.7% of donor countries' GDP.

On a broader scale, progress has been made across all of SSA, with primary school enrollment up 15% from 2000 to 2007 and significantly more children sleeping under treated bed nets to prevent malaria. Progress has been limited in addressing issues of maternal health, with SSA and South Asia accounting for 85% of maternal deaths.

In the second part of the program, Doris Benson, UNA-Westchester's program committee chair and president-elect of the Bronxville Rotary Club, talked about her recent trip to Zambia. The Rotary Club of Bronxville is teaming with the Rotary club of Lusaka, Zambia, to support a Wildlife Conservation Society program in the Luangwa Valley called COMACO (Community Markets for Conservation). COMACO teaches conservation farming practices and agrees to buy the resulting produce at premium prices.

In exchange, villagers agree to abandon environmentally destructive practices such as poaching or farming on steep slopes. COMACO then processes, packages, and delivers products such as rice, peanut butter, and nuts to supermarket shelves across Zambia under the brand name "It's Wild." The Rotary will supply hives and processing capability to support COMACO's work developing honey production.

Amada Raz, Chair of Westchester's Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC) chapter, concluded the program. She announced that YPIC would be supporting the COMACO project by selling honey in a fund-raiser called "Honey for a Hive." For more information, contact Amanda at raza@mville.edu. She also raised the possibility of establishing a UNA Student Alliance at Concordia College and other educational institutions in the area.

The enthusiastic audience of about 60 people, including many students, was excited to engage in the discussion of how these approaches could be scaled up around the world to make significant progress toward the MDGs. We all celebrated the UN's birthday with a cake and snacks.

Citizens for Global Solutions: Multimedia Contest 2009

CGS is looking for creative expressions of global solutions to global challenges. Contestants are asked to create a short multimedia piece that can inspire and activate people who believe that a better world is possible. Prizes of up to \$4,000 are up for grabs! The contest theme is “Choose Your Global Solution,” asking for submissions in which:

- 1) The stories or games have options that can lead to different outcomes; and
- 2) The viewer/player gets to choose between those options.

The objective is to show the audience how different choices lead to different outcomes for them and the world. Artists, designers, poets, activists, and others may produce submissions in flash animation, spoken word, digital video, or any other format. Deadline December 1! Registration Free: <http://multimedia.globalsolutions.org/>.

Launch of Global Task Force for Humanitarian Work Psychology

The Global Task Force for Humanitarian Work Psychology was launched at its first meeting held at University College London (UCL) in June 2009. The Task Force Co-Chairs (2009–2010) are: Mary O’Neill Berry, a UNA-Westchester Board member and Executive Vice President of Sirota Survey Intelligence; Professor Stuart C. Carr of Massey University, New Zealand; and Leo Marai of the School of Business Administration, University of Papua New Guinea. The Task Force is an international, nonpartisan initiative formed to link organizational psychology with humanitarian agencies. The meeting was attended by participants from eight countries and covered a wide range of topics, from leadership development and organizational justice to workplace misbehaviors and online support for field volunteers.

The Task Force has developed an agenda for the next year, which will include working with a major international NGO to streamline its project process, resulting in greater effectiveness. There will also be a major outreach effort to raise awareness of humanitarian work psychology among international aid and development organizations, as well as in the academic community, especially students. For more information, contact Mary O’Neill Berry, mberry@sirota.com, 914-922-2514.

Save the Date: On a related matter, the 3rd Annual Psychology Day at the UN will be held on February 4, 2010, 1:00–5:00 P.M., in the Church Center, First Ave. and East 44th Street. The Day aims to demonstrate to UN staff the role that psychologists can play in the life of the UN, and to psychologists how they could apply their expertise at the UN.

“Love at the Edge”—A Novel about the Middle East

Joan Katen, UNA-Westchester Board member and Adjunct Professor at Pace University, has just published a novel about forbidden love in the Middle East. The novel tells the story of an Israeli medical student and a Palestinian woman who find themselves recovering from personal tragedies in Paris. The author will present a talk and book signing at Pace Pleasantville's Mortola Library on December 2nd at 6:15 pm.

Division Elects New Officers

The Southern New York Division, of which the Westchester Chapter is part, has elected its new officers for 2010: Jeanne Betsock Stillman, President; Marcia Brewster and Catherine White, Vice Presidents; Margaret Shannon, Secretary; and Lee H. Bloom, Treasurer. We are proud to note that three of these officers are from the Westchester Chapter. We look forward to working closely with the Division in the coming year.

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Prime Minister Tilman Thomas of Grenada said that increases of 2 degrees Celsius would cause many of the SIDS economies and ecosystems to disappear. The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) called for long-term stabilization of atmospheric GHG concentrations at well below 350 parts per million, limiting increases in average global surface temperatures to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica said that forests must be preserved and owners of forests compensated, particularly by scaling up mechanisms such as UN Programme for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation of Forests in Developing Countries (REDD). Multiple measures for transfer of technology and investments in adaptation technologies are needed.

Nobel Peace Laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai of Kenya stressed that the major tropical forests were the lungs of the planet, and that reducing deforestation and forest degradation was a viable piece of the puzzle.

Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen of Denmark said that a new global agreement (which should be forged at Copenhagen in December) should be ambitious, binding and should correspond to the 2 degrees Celsius scenario. It would constitute the overall political framework for future global efforts against climate change. He emphasized that industrialized countries must commit to substantial reduction targets, with the goal of an 80% reduction by 2050, while developing countries should commit to domestic action based on domestic need and projections for future emission patterns. Developed countries need to commit to finance overseas mitigation and adaptation efforts, as well as expedite international research on green technology and disseminate it worldwide.

A number of speakers from the North and South spoke about the issues of transfer of technology and finance, which would have to be resolved if agreement is to be reached in Copenhagen. A substantial amount of finance will be needed to support adaptation and mitigation action in developing countries. The Secretary-General announced that, after Copenhagen, he intended to set up a High Level Panel to advise on how to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into development efforts.

By the beginning of November, some of the key players, including President Obama, were anticipating that the long-term global agreement would not be reached in Copenhagen in 2009, and negotiations would have to continue into 2010.

Board Members, Officers, and Committee Chairs

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Vacant, Membership

Directors: Mary O'Neill Berry, Narinder Kakar, Joan Katen, John Lloyd, Amanda Raz, Karen Rockwell El-Badry, Brenda Smith; Jeanne Betsock Stillman, Sarah Angel and John Robinson (*ex officio*)

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