

# GLOBAL PROGRESS



Fall 2009

## CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE: TIME TO ACT

The scientists have spoken: immediate action is imperative to avert catastrophic damage to the world's climate. At decisive UN negotiations in Copenhagen this December, all nations must join hands to forge an agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Nothing we do at the United Nations Foundation is more urgent than fostering progress on this front. With Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and many others, we are working

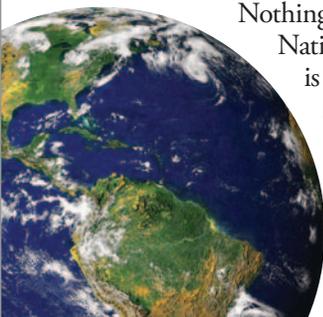
toward a comprehensive international solution that will help developed and developing nations achieve climate goals. For some, that will mean timetables to achieve targeted cuts in greenhouse gas output. For others, the challenge will be to slow and reverse emission levels now on the rise. For all, the commitment will entail lasting cooperation in promoting clean energy and steadfast provision of financial and other assistance, especially to the poorest and most vulnerable nations.

The potential for technological and economic progress actually represents a kind of silver lining to clouds of heat-trapping gases. Worldwide investment

in clean energy already tops \$150 billion annually and the volume is expected to grow 200% in the next several years. The result: millions of jobs created and business opportunities expanded—in short, a boost to global economic recovery.

Getting from here to there will require unparalleled global teamwork for which the United States will have to play a leadership role. Our first test is to lead by example—winning Congressional passage of strong and effective legislation promoting clean-energy jobs and emissions reductions. The challenge on the world stage is to forge progress within the next few months at the General Assembly

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## ENGAGING YOUTH TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD



*Students at Youth Leadership Summit on Climate Change take local action in a service project with the NY Restoration Project at Highbridge Park in NYC*

With your help, the UN Foundation is creating a new generation of leaders to solve the global challenges they will inherit. Our Global Debates project—a partnership with the National Forensic League, IDEA and Open Society Institute—recruits high school students to lead debates on important climate change issues in their communities and then puts what they have learned into action through hands-on projects. Over the past three years, the program has engaged tens of thousands of students and inspired action to help reverse global warming.

This year, more than 2,000 schools across the globe took part in our Global Debates. In addition to holding public forums, students launched projects to conduct conservation education campaigns, write topical letters to the editor, meet with elected officials and build green resources like wind turbines.

In July, 140 students from the top participating schools attended the UN Foundation's Youth Leadership Summit in New York. Students from seven U.S. states and from Bulgaria, Malaysia, Moldova, Mongolia and South Korea had the chance to learn from one another. During the three-day summit, they also took an insider tour of the United Nations, heard from prominent UN leaders, attended workshops on climate change science, activism and grassroots organizing and participated in a hands-on community service project.

In an address to the group, Janos Pasztor, director of the Secretary-General's

Climate Change Team, left the students with one indisputable message about climate change: "The time is *now*, and *everyone* must be accountable."

### Change is in the Wind

**In one of this year's most exciting Global Debates projects, students in Utah installed a 400-watt wind turbine that generated enough electricity to power their classroom. Now these young people from the Northern Utah Academy for Math, Engineering and Science are building a turbine to power their entire school. To hear directly from some of these innovative students, visit [www.youtube.com/group/globaldebates](http://www.youtube.com/group/globaldebates) to watch a video about their project.**

## From the President

The change in leadership in Washington has brought renewed focus on the United Nations. This vitally important global institution is at the core of everything we do at the United Nations Foundation, and it has been an enormously busy and productive time for us.

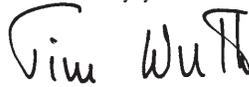
The issues we tackle—from battling climate change to promoting reproductive health—depend upon a strong relationship between the United States and the UN. In fact, our Chairman Ted Turner created the Foundation 12 years ago because this important relationship had atrophied at great cost to American and global interests.

Since assuming office, President Barack Obama has reiterated his commitment to working with the United Nations to solve global problems. But we knew this promise could not be kept as long as the United States owed nearly a billion dollars to the UN.

The United Nations Foundation, working through its Better World Campaign, launched an aggressive effort to support the President's request to pay all of the U.S. debt to the United Nations. We activated our grassroots network and ensured that members of Congress heard from their pro-UN constituents. I am pleased to report that the President has now signed into law legislation which pays all of our overdue UN bills.

Thank you again for your continued support toward building a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

Sincerely yours,



Timothy E. Wirth



*UN Foundation Chairman, Ted Turner  
and President, Senator Timothy Wirth*

## DR. GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

**United Nations Foundation Board Member since 2002**



The UN Foundation is proud to have a remarkable group of distinguished world leaders serving on its Board of Directors. Among them, the chair of the Executive Committee Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, is a recognized expert in public health, the environment and international politics.

As Norway's first female prime minister, Dr. Brundtland headed the government for ten years. In 1983, she was asked to establish and lead the United Nations' World Commission on Environment and Development, widely referred to as The Brundtland Commission. Its work led to the first Earth

Summit in 1992 and set the stage for the international movement to combat climate change.

Dr. Brundtland also served as director-general of the UN's World Health Organization, where she spearheaded the coordinated international response to global health crises including eradicating polio and dramatically reducing malaria deaths. Now a special envoy on climate change for the UN Secretary-General, she focuses on developing effective, new international policy responses to that gathering storm.

A medical doctor like her father, Dr. Brundtland has dedicated her life to helping others and making the world a better place.

## EYE ON THE UN



The World Health Organization (WHO) is leading the global response to Influenza A (H1N1), commonly known as swine flu, which it officially declared a pandemic in June. It directed the development guidelines that all nations are following to report cases and treat patients. As occurred previously with SARS and Avian influenza, WHO is providing leadership across the globe to minimize the impact of this pandemic, reduce illness and protect the public. When a new vaccine is developed, WHO will help distribute it quickly to developed and developing countries.

# GLOBAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS

## Sustainable Tourism and the Journey of a Honey Jar

Thanks to you, the UN Foundation is working with businesses and travelers to help preserve World Heritage sites in places like Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and grow local sustainable communities.



Meet Shawn. Shawn is a responsible traveler who chose to stay at Fairmont Mayakoba because of the hotel's commitment to the local Mayan community. Shawn enjoyed the honey in her morning tea and was moved by Lizbeth's story. She decided to donate to the UN Foundation to support groups like Flor de Tajonal.



Meet Lizbeth Pool Uc. She is a member of Flor de Tajonal, a local women's cooperative that makes and sells honey and honey products. Because she received funding and training support from the UN Foundation and its partners, Lizbeth is now supporting her family, preserving traditional Mayan beekeeping techniques, and encouraging pollination to help the forests of her nearby World Heritage site thrive.



Meet Lyn Santos. Lyn works at Fairmont Mayakoba, a luxury hotel in the Yucatan and a member of the UN Foundation's World Heritage Alliance for Sustainable Tourism. Lyn purchases honey directly from Lizbeth's cooperative and provides it to her guests for use in spa treatments and in the hotel restaurant.



Meet Julio Moure. Julio is the director of the United Nations Development Programme in the Yucatan area. With support from the UN Foundation, Julio helps Lizbeth make and sell honey products beyond her small community.

### Bed Net News

Escalating violence has driven more than two million people from their homes in northwestern Pakistan. Now, in the midst of the rainy season, refugees living in makeshift camps are at immediate risk of disease from malaria-carrying mosquitoes. *With your help, the UN Foundation is partnering with the UN Refugee Agency to respond to the urgent need for 150,000 anti-malarial bed nets to save refugees' lives. Log on to [www.unfoundation.org/globalprogress](http://www.unfoundation.org/globalprogress) and make your gift today.*



## Support our Work

Support the work you have read about in this newsletter! Help the UN Foundation fight disease, poverty, climate change and build a better world. Please continue your good work and ours by sending your gift today in the enclosed envelope or donate online at [www.unfoundation.org/globalprogress](http://www.unfoundation.org/globalprogress).

## PEOPLE TAKING ACTION



Laurence Carolin is a young man of remarkable courage and compassion. Just 14 years old and afflicted with inoperable brain cancer, Laurence still thinks he's lucky to have a good life.

Laurence's first wish, through the Make-a-Wish Foundation, was to meet with rock star Bono. When that was not possible, he thought of another idea that would mean just as much to him. He asked instead to have the cost of his wish donated to one of Bono's causes and chose the United Nations Foundation to help AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria patients in Africa.

Reflecting on his choice, Laurence said, "What keeps me going are my great friends, and music, and the hope that more people would be aware of what's happening in Africa and what can be done."

*The UN Foundation is grateful for Laurence's extraordinary gift.*

### CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE: TIME TO ACT (continued from page 1).

session on climate change, at the G-20 meeting in Pittsburgh and, above all, in Copenhagen.

Never has U.S. leadership been needed more and never has the UN's capacity to advance global cooperation been more important. This fall, we have a critical

opportunity to tackle the greatest economic security and environmental challenge of the 21st century. It is time to act.

*Sign up at [www.unfoundation.org](http://www.unfoundation.org) to receive the latest online news updates on the UN Foundation's ongoing climate change work.*

The UN Foundation is an advocate for the UN and a platform for connecting people, ideas and resources to help the United Nations solve global problems.

NEWS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

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