

Basic facts

The Secretary-General is the Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations Organization. He is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five year renewal term. He heads the Secretariat and performs the functions entrusted to him by the Security Council, General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and other United Nations organs. He is empowered to bring to the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the international peace and security.



Quiz

- How many members has the Security Council?
- Which are the permanent members?
- Which are the current non-permanent members?

“A national law whereby at least a minimum level of investment is indispensably assured for quality education is highly necessary. Following up on the recommendations made consistently by the High-level Group on Education for All, the establishment of an internationally accepted norm whereby a certain minimum percentage of GNP (4-6 per cent) or of the national budget (15-20%) is allocated to education may be valuable in providing the basis for developing national legal and policy framework” (Excerpts of the Report to the General Assembly of the current Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, Mr. Kishore Singh).



64th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

Under the Conference theme: “Sustainable Societies: Responsive Citizens” about 1,300 participants from 300 NGOs and 85 countries gathered in Bonn on the 3rd-5th September. Women’s Board was represented in the Conference by Christine Rice.

The Nigerian Mrs. Margaret Vogt has been appointed Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and head of the UN Integrated Peace building Office in the Central African Republic.

NEWSBRIEF ON THE UNITED NATIONS January 2012

To-date positions

President 66th General Assembly
Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nassar (Qatar)

President ECOSOC
Mr. Milos Koterec (Slovakia)

President Human Rights Council
Ms. Laura Dupuy Laserre (Uruguay)

Nigeria mourned following the terrorist bomb explosion on 26th August at the United Nations building at Abuja which accommodates 26 humanitarian and developing agencies. More than 20 people of different nationalities were killed and many more badly injured. Virtually the whole world condemned the attack, including the UN Deputy General Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro who travelled immediately to Nigeria.

International days January-June

January
27 - International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

February
21 - International Mother Language Day

March
8 - International Women's Day
21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
22 - World Day for Water
25 - International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

April
2 - World Autism Awareness Day
7 - World Health Day

May
3 - World Press Freedom Day
29 - International Day of UN Peacekeepers

June
5 - World Environment Day
20 - World Refugee Day
26 - International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

During the end of the year press conference the Secretary-General stated that he has a vision of the UN “as the voice of the voiceless and the defender of the defenceless”. The statement is encouraging for so many civil society groups defenders of the literally voiceless and defenceless preborn child.

The “Economic Development in Africa Report 2011” prepared by UNCTAD and UNIDO reveals that Africa accounts for only about one per cent of global manufacturing and cannot realistically hope to reduce widespread poverty if concrete and effective steps are not taken by governments to expand this vital economic sector.

UNIC Nigeria held a Media/NGO forum on the 7th July to present and distribute the 2011 MDGs Report. The forum discussed global issues on the implementation of the MDGs in the country. Representatives of UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, UNFPA, IFC were present at the event.

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The General Assembly admitted the Republic of South Sudan as the 193rd member of the United Nations on the 14th July, welcoming the newly independent country to the community of nations. South Sudan independence is the result of the January 2001 referendum.

Answers to Quiz

a) 15; b) China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States; c) Colombia, Germany, India, Portugal, South Africa, Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo.

The Women's Board is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and associated to the Department of Public Information of the UN

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