

October 2005

Traditionally, October has been United Nations month, a time when prospects for the venerable international world organization are assessed and calls for its reform are heard. This year was no different. The United Nations is 60 years old. It came into being in 1945 as a direct result of the World War II calamity. There was a clear desire to avoid such ruinous conflicts in the future and hence the creation of a new institution whose principal aims were to provide a forum for the peaceful resolution of international disputes and the provision of security for its members. As well there were many humanitarian goals that developed under the UN umbrella.

This supplement presents a pot-pourri of articles that debate in a sense the work, aims, achievements, and failures of the United Nations. Is it needed on the world scene? Or, has it seen its better days and now it is time to dismantle it and replace it with something more effective and relevant to the situation of the world today?

American views

UN Reform

<http://www.washtimes.com/op-ed/20050614-082502-9777r.htm>

U.N. reform proposals

Helle Dale, June 15, 2005

One of those reform efforts is the publication today of the report of the Task Force on the United States and the United Nations, a congressionally mandated effort ... the task force has produced a 154-page document of recommendations for dealing with the numerous problems besetting the United Nations from corruption and lack of accountability to abuse among U.N. peacekeepers to the laughable record of the U.N. Human Rights Commission to the failure to handle vast humanitarian crises, like the one in Sudan.

One proposal would change voting in the United Nations, with a member-state's weighted vote based on its country's assessments. Another would shift 18 U.N. programs to voluntary funding, while yet another would cut the massive fund for conferences, the largest single line item in the U.N. budget.

The Hyde bill also carries with it a powerful incentive — the threat of withholding up to 50 percent of

the U.S. contribution to the regular U.N. budget (a whopping \$439 million for 2006) until the secretary of state can certify that at least 32 out of 39 proposed reforms have taken place.

Particularly encouraging about both the task force report and the Hyde legislation, though, is the fact that they in many ways focus on procedure and accountability. This is not the most exciting of topics, but when it comes to large organizations it is the meat and bones of the operation....Indeed, too often U.N. reform gets stuck on the subject of Security Council expansion — a kind of international popularity contest for aspiring permanent council members. Japan and Germany want in because they are the second and third-largest donors; India and Brazil claim the size of their population. Security Council expansion has appeal as a kind of parlor game on the diplomatic cocktail circuit, though it is hardly likely to make the council any more effective.

What will be needed to make any of this week's reform proposals stick is American leadership. As the country contributing 22 percent of the regular U.N. budget and 27 percent of the peacekeeping budget, the United States has a unique leadership position, though the noise of controversy and anti-Americanism in the General Assembly sometimes drowns out that fact.

Questions

1. What are the main concerns re UN reforms expressed in this American newspaper editorial?
2. How does the Congressional task force seek to make the reform effort accountable?

A limited UN is best for America

Newt Gingrich *The Boston Globe*, September 2005

Four years after the December 1941 attack on the United States at Pearl Harbor, world leaders gathered in San Francisco and founded the United Nations, an international organization dedicated to preventing war, defending human rights, and helping the peoples of the world achieve safety, health, prosperity and freedom.

Today, the civilized world is engaged in a long war against the irreconcilable wing of Islam. Thousands of innocents have been murdered and maimed in terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, London, Madrid, Beslan, Bali, Jerusalem, Baghdad, Istanbul and many

other cities. The terrorist Ayman al-Zawahiri is explicit about Al Qaeda's "right to kill four million Americans – two million of them children – and to exile twice as many and wound and cripple hundreds of thousands."

The 9/11 anniversary also provides perspective for what must be America's only measuring stick for any program of UN reform – whether it enhances America's safety, and whether it furthers the spread of freedom and liberty across the world. President George W. Bush had it exactly right in his second Inaugural Address when he said that "the best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world." ...The UN must be a fundamentally limited institution because it has no democratic accountability but has at times pretensions of asserting legitimacy akin to that of a democratic nation state. For example, large international meetings sponsored by the UN often aim to create new systems of "law" and new "norms" of international behavior under the guise of "global governance." These present a direct threat to American sovereignty and our system of constitutional liberty and therefore must be rejected.

The United Nations is neither accountable nor responsible to a democratic electorate, genuine democratic institutions, nor the give and take of national democratic politics. ...Our founding fathers separated power among three branches and created a system of checks and balances to hold our government accountable and keep it limited. ...

The oil-for-food scandal is a perfect example of why we need a limited UN. Without democratic systems of accountability in place, oil-for-food, a program designed to provide humanitarian relief to Iraqis suffering under Saddam Hussein's rule, was grotesquely transformed into a dictatorship support program. The UN's failure strengthened Saddam's rule, undermined American safety and delayed Iraqi freedom – a result completely at odds with what was intended.

Moreover, the fact that the UN has no democratic preconditions for membership limits America's ability to render the UN's infrastructure and its decisions compatible with American values and interests. The plain and simple facts are that Sudan is currently serving its second term on the Human Rights Commission, and that Libya, the same nation that accepted responsibility for the murder of 189 Americans in the bomb-

ing of Pan Am 103, was elected as chair of the commission in 2003.

America also requires an honest UN. Because so much of the UN behavior and culture would be indefensible if described honestly, there is an overwhelming tendency to use platitudes and misleading terms to camouflage the indefensible.

Fortunately, the new American UN ambassador, John Bolton, is unafraid to speak clearly about America's values and interests. He will only be confrontational to those who defend policies that cannot stand the light of day.

For example, four years after the terrorist attacks of 2001, the UN General Assembly still has not reached agreement on something as basic to the war on terror as a comprehensive definition of terrorism. Many member states that support terrorism have tried to derail this process by insisting that actions by individuals or irregular organizations in the context of "wars of national liberation" and the ejection of "occupying forces" should not be considered terrorism.

This is unacceptable, as it would legitimize terrorist attacks anywhere, and specifically against coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as against Israel.

Uniformed national military forces are already bound by the laws of war; we must insist on a comprehensive definition of terror that applies to individuals and irregular forces.

Lastly, a United Nations that is limited in its responsibilities and honest in carrying them out would prove to be a much more effective institution. The United States, which funds 22 percent of the UN's regular budget, has a duty to insist on reformed systems of accountability, transparency and integrity that will enhance its effectiveness.

We are in a long war for civilization. It is at once a global military fight and a battle of ideas between those who would defend civilization and those who would destroy it. At every point in this struggle, a reformed and an effective UN would be a tremendous ally on the side of civilization. A UN that can honestly confront the challenges of this struggle, such as accurately defining terrorism and telling the truth about the Iranian nuclear program, as well as honestly describing and confronting the genocide in Sudan, and other horrific human rights violations worldwide, would contribute enormously to American safety at home and liberty abroad.



Questions



Newt Gingrich

1. According to Gingrich why must the UN be a fundamentally limited institution?
2. What other conditions does Gingrich envision for the UN if it is to enjoy continued American support?
3. How does Gingrich reconcile UN reform with American security needs?

United Nations' reform must continue September 20, 2005

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/editorial/united-nations-reform-must-continue/2005/09/19/1126981995803.html>

Before it is dismissed as a failed institution, it should be remembered that through its various agencies the United Nations provides food, shelter and health care to millions of people in need around the world. The World Food Program, a UN body, is the largest deliverer of humanitarian aid in the world; many thousands of refugees daily seek shelter in UN-run camps; and it is through research publications such as the annual UN Human Development Report that the state of the world's people can be generally established (the global gap between rich and poor is getting bigger, according to its most recent report). That said, the UN is a deeply troubled organisation, beset by mismanagement and corruption - as revealed in the recent report on the oil-for-food scandal - too often rendered impotent when prompt action is needed, and discredited by the existence on the Human Rights Commission of states guilty of massive human rights abuses.

The UN is greatly in need of reform, but unfortunately it did not get that reform at last week's 60th anniversary summit in New York. Indeed, it is easier to say what the summit did not achieve than what it did. Reform of the Security Council, which still reflects the power structures of 60 years ago, was put in the too-hard basket before the summit even started; the world leaders could reach no agreement on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, a failure that Secretary-General Kofi Annan rightly described as a disgrace; the proposal to replace the Human Rights Commission with a new, more credible Human Rights Council was significantly watered down; and while British Prime Minister Tony Blair was able to get through a resolution calling on all states to ban the

incitement to terrorism, the UN members could not even agree on a clear definition of terrorism itself.

The summit was not, however, a complete waste of time. The 35-page final document does call for the creation of a peace-building commission to supervise the reconstruction of countries after conflicts are ended. A new doctrine setting out a "responsibility to protect" in cases of genocide and crimes against humanity has been adopted, marking an important philosophical change from the notion of absolute state sovereignty. Some progress was made towards achieving goals to end world poverty, the biggest challenge facing the world today.

In this era of rapid and unstoppable globalisation, finding ways to collectively deal with threatened genocides, natural catastrophes, disease pandemics and global financial crises has never been more necessary. The summit was disappointing. This does not mean, however, that reform should not or cannot continue. There simply is no alternative.

Questions

1. In this editorial what is the greatest value attributed to UN work?
2. Explain three achievements and three failures of the recent UN summit? (September, 2005)

An Asian View

U.N. Reform and Japan's Inappropriate Moves

<http://www.hani.co.kr/section-001100000/2005/03/001100000200503230736001.html>

Annan's reform plan presents four projects and plans for their realization. These four projects would be "freedom from want," "freedom from fear" and "freedom to live with dignity" - development, security and human rights - and the strengthening of U.N. bodies.

In the development section, the demand made to developed nations that they give 0.7 percent of their GDP to development assistance by 2015 draws attention. This is something Korea must pay heed to. In the security section, should the principles on the exercise of the rule of force be implemented as is, we hope it could greatly help in managing the high-handedness of Great Powers such as the unilateral invasion of Iraq by the U.S. The establishment of a standing committee on human rights and creation of a democracy endowment conforms to the demands of our age.

The part that is drawing the most interest is the two plans to reform the Security Council. Plan A calls for the permanent membership of the council, currently monopolized by the U.S., U.K., France, Russia and China, to be expanded to 11 nations, while Plan B calls for the addition of eight semi-permanent mem-

bers that can be re-elected. The former plan is believed to better reflect regional representation.

Japan's moves are noteworthy. Japan is actively supporting Plan A and aims to become a permanent council member, but when one considers what Japan has done to the nations it victimized during the colonial period, this is inappropriate. Tokyo's attempt to beautify its imperial history and its pursuit of becoming a military Great Power goes against the U.N.'s spirit of peace preservation. A nation that knows not how to reflect on its faulty past has no right to assume a leadership position in the international community. U.N. reform and the strengthening of its bodies are urgent tasks, but one must sufficiently consider ethics and responsibility in the process.

The Hankyoreh, 23 March 2005.

Questions

1. From this Korean editorial what is inappropriate about Japan's potential new role in a reformed Security Council?
2. Why would Korea take this approach toward a larger Japanese role in the world?

A Canadian View

<http://www.canadawebpages.com/pc-editorial.asp?Key=1752&editorType=canada&editorPrimeKeyword=canada&editorLink=liberalParty>

PM Paul Martin's address at the UN General Assembly

20/09/2005

The international response to the devastation wrought by hurricane Katrina reminds us once again that there are connections between people that have nothing to do with a common language, race or creed, and everything to do with the most fundamental considerations: of what it means to be a human being, what it means to be a person with rights, needs and responsibilities toward others.

"In Larger Freedom" makes the case eloquently: security, development, and human rights, the three pillars of human freedom, are not abstract concepts.

Canada cannot conceive of a world succeeding without the United Nations. But, make no mistake the UN needs reform.

Security represents the protection of life and thus is the basis for everything else we do.

That is why our discussions of Security Council reform are so important. And why there has long been an argument that the Security Council should be more representative.

We agree. But we believe it is even more important that the Council be effective. Too often, Permanent Members have used the veto –real or threatened– to

prevent effective action.

Too often, we have debated the finer points of language while innocent people continue to die. Darfur is only the latest example.

Clearly, we need expanded guidelines for Security Council action to make clear our responsibility to act decisively to prevent humanity's attack on humanity. The "Responsibility to Protect" is one such guideline. It seeks rules to protect the innocent against appalling assaults on their life and dignity. It does not bless unilateral action.

To the contrary, it stands for clear, multilaterally-agreed criteria on what the international community should do when civilians are at risk.

It is a powerful norm of international behaviour. And this week, we have taken a very important step to that end. We are proud that R2P has Canadian lineage, that it is now a principle for all the world. That being said, our collective responsibility does not end there. I would have hoped that we could have agreed now to make the new peace building commission operational. Building the peace is a huge undertaking and, to do it well, we need to bring order out of chaos.

Which leads me to the second pillar, economic development. The record is far from brilliant. After decades of effort, money and development only go together if donor and recipient countries take their responsibilities to heart. This is a lesson that needs to be embraced. Donor nations must do more, and we have begun to do so, by increasing our development assistance budgets and accelerating the pace of disbursements, as well as forgiving old debts.

More consistent policies are needed, however. How can we talk about development as we chase poor farmers from their land because of their inability to compete on their own agricultural export markets, which are oversubsidized by rich countries!



What good comes from lamenting the lot of the poor while seeking to sell as many weapons as possible to as many developing nations as possible? How can we preach the virtues of free trade while preventing market access to least developed countries?

Developing countries must do more as well. True development will not take place until local populations have the confidence to invest their own energy and resources into making a better future for themselves. They will only get this confidence when they see their governments investing in areas that



make a tangible difference to their lives—not disproportionate military expenditures but investments in health, in education, in good governance, and in creating an environment that frees up the entrepreneurial spirit that exists in all our countries.

How many more infants have been vaccinated this year compared to last? How many more children can read and write?

How secure is a family’s title to their land? How many small businesses have survived for three years or more?

Let me turn now to the UN’s third pillar: Respect for human rights. Our reform efforts on security and development will ultimately fail unless they are grounded in respect for individuals:

- 1) Respect for their rights,
- 2) Respect for their cultures, traditions and beliefs.
- 3) Respect for their opinions dissenting or not.

Respect for human rights is the living heart of democracy, the key to unlocking the potential of every person to contribute to their own welfare and to the prosperity and security of their communities. The UN’s Commission on Human Rights has a serious credibility problem. Its membership, its increasing politicization and its overall lack of effectiveness at tackling human rights violations around the world have overwhelmed its achievements. We need a standing body at a higher level in the UN system, commensurate with the importance of human rights. That is why we support the proposal for an effective Human Rights Council.

I cannot disguise our profound disappointment that we were not able to agree at this Summit on all of the

elements required to make it operational. Canada will not cease to promote actively, bringing a standing council into being, with credible membership criteria. In the meantime, we welcome the universal endorsement of the work of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour and our collective decision to double the resources available to her office.

I have talked about the three pillars - security, development and human rights. Each poses its own unique challenges, but there is also one com-

mon element that runs through all three if the UN is to work well, and it is this: we need new and innovative approaches to global challenges in which every country contributes and every country shares in the benefits.

One striking example is climate change. This November, Canada will host the UN Conference on Climate Change, and our goal for this conference is clear: climate change is real, and the world must recognize it; human activity is a defining cause, and the world must act on it.

Our mandate in Montreal will be two-fold: first the Kyoto parties have started their work and need to build on it by making continued progress on their existing commitments, second we will initiate discussions to achieve a truly global and inclusive regime to achieve deep and genuine reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.

As the Secretary-General has observed, the United Nations is at a crossroads. In order to achieve lasting and effective reform, it must thoroughly reform its administration—its management methods—and introduce verification mechanisms with more clout. Such reform is crucial. We want to work with other member nations and the Secretary-General to obtain this general assembly’s endorsement of a set of reforms to meet the demands of the 21st century.

In conclusion, the status Quo and too often empty rhetoric must make way here for a new and pragmatic multilateralism measured by concrete results, not simply by promises. Our citizens want security, based on international law. They want opportunity, based on more effective aid. They want empowerment, based on respect for human rights. And they want a clean

environment. These are not utopian dreams. They are among the most urgent challenges we face. We are national leaders.

Questions

1. Describe three shortcomings of the UN (as presently constituted) outlined by Canada's Prime Minister Paul Martin.
2. What three areas of operations does Martin focus on? What connection is there between economic development, security and respect for human rights?
3. Why is climate change a particular concern for Canada's Liberal government?
4. How does Canada's actual contributions stack up against the claims and criticisms made by the Prime Minister?
5. Why should Canadians be vigilant critics of the UN?
6. "The fact is that 90 per cent of the UN's work involves delivering food, water, basic health and sanitation, inoculating against disease, giving hope, succour, aid in disasters, and shelter in war." Why is this fact praiseworthy?

http://www.international.gc.ca/canada_un/ottawa/canada_un/unup-date-en.asp?id=145&content_type=2

Supplementary Questions

1. How and why would governments of various nations differ on their views/aspirations/fears for UN reforms?
2. How and why would people from different social/economic classes likewise differ in their views?

Annan must go

Editorial, *The Interim*, October 2005

The problems at the United Nations – from the 1975 resolution declaring Zionism a form of racism to the massive oil-for-food scandal that enriched Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein (as well as several UN officials and their business associates), to its inaction in genocides in Rwanda and Sudan, to the sexual abuse of locals at the hands of its peacekeepers in west Africa and Kosovo – are widespread and well-known. They are serious enough that even Secretary-General Kofi Annan has claimed the mantle of UN reformer in order that both he and his organization may regain some shred of credibility and moral authority.

It may be too late.

On Sept. 7, the Independent Inquiry Committee, created by Kofi Annan to investigate the oil-for-food scandal, was scathing in its criticism of the United Nations, the Security Council, the oil-for-food program and the secretary-general himself. Led by former

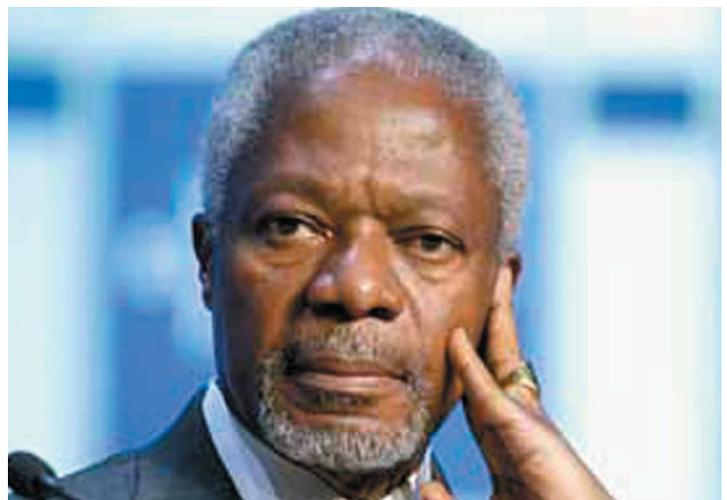
U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker, the committee's report found Annan an ineffective administrator who committed serious failings in terms of oversight and omission. So rather than find Annan a corrupt and venal man, Volcker came to the best possible conclusion: that when it comes to managing the Secretariat of the UN, Annan is merely incompetent. But Annan declared he was exonerated by the Volcker report and defiantly stated he would stay at the helm of the UN.

There is another, less-well-documented scandal at the United Nations, one not examined by the IIC or the subject of numerous criticisms of the UN: the relentless assault on life, family and traditional values at every level of the UN, throughout every agency, regardless of its mission. The most egregious example is the UN Population Fund providing chemical abortifacients and manual abortion devices in refugee camps, as if the most urgent need for displaced persons is the killing of unborn children.

Time and again, the UN has promoted population-control schemes, sought to have abortion declared a universal human right, declared homosexuality normative and limited the rights of parents in the upbringing of their own children.

Kofi Annan, who in 2001 won the Nobel Peace Prize, himself has endorsed abortion. In 2004, he received an award from the International Women's Health Coalition, a group working for worldwide abortion on demand for women (and girls). Upon receiving the award, Annan said: "I want to pay tribute to the International Women's Health Coalition for the work it is doing around the globe. The IWHC and its partners provide indispensable leadership for the health and rights of girls and women worldwide. If there were more pioneers like you, the world would be a better place. You are a shining example." He concluded his comments by calling the staff of IWHC "wonderful partners of the United Nations family."

As Douglas A. Sylva, then of the Catholic Family and



UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

Human Rights Institute, noted, “Annan’s enthusiastic acceptance of the (IWHC) award raises renewed questions about the objectivity of Annan and the UN secretariat, which is responsible for organizing major conferences on international social policy.”

Indeed, during Kofi Annan’s tenure as secretary-general, scarcely is a major international summit called that does not attempt to promote abortion, undermine the rights of parents or advocate measures that would encourage sexual promiscuity.

In 1999, during a special Cairo+5 session, Annan said that “all states” must “incorporate population policies into their development strategy,” because “there is a limit to the pressures our global environment can stand. One form of pressure is the sheer size of the world’s population.” To be clear, Annan sees people as a problem in and of themselves, a problem to be cured with widespread abortion and contraception regardless of national laws and local customs.

In light of the oil-for-food scandal, the Volcker report recommends a thorough overhaul of how the UN, its Security Council and the Secretariat operate. Pedro A. Sanjuan, formerly a high-ranking official at the UN, says in his new book *The UN Gang* that although most UN reform is difficult, because it requires member states to disregard their immediate national interests, fixing the Secretariat is relatively easy, because it can be done within its own offices. Among Sanjuan’s suggested common-sense and long-overdue reforms is depoliticizing the Secretariat.

That is unlikely to happen under the current leadership. Annan has twice already “reformed” the way the UN works; indeed, Canadian businessman Maurice Strong was his special adviser on UN reform. It obviously did no good. Annan has proved himself an incompetent administrator, but more dangerously, he has demonstrated himself a pro-abortion ideologue.

The oil-for-food scandal may have exposed Kofi Annan as unsuited for the job of secretary-general, but



it was his radical anti-life, anti-family views that long ago disqualified him for the UN’s top post.

Questions

1. What is the focus of this editorial?
2. How does it differ from the other editorials encountered earlier on?
3. According to Tuns what renders Kofi Annan unfit to be Secretary-General?
4. Does the UN aspire to be a world government?
5. Should it aspire to such a role?

A timeline of the UN’s anti-life agenda

The Interim’s editor Paul Tuns explains how the UN embraced depopulation as a goal and is pushing abortion as a human right

Introduction

The United Nations began with lofty goals. Born in the aftermath of World War II, it sought to prevent another global conflict. But through the years, it has increasingly become involved in domestic policy including, unfortunately, the social policy of nations. Under the guise of economic development, protecting the environment, and sustainability, as well as “human rights” and “equality,” the United Nations and its myriad agencies have promoted population control, “reproductive rights,” abortion-on-demand, and anti-family policies. It is, therefore, necessary to examine the history of the UN’s advocacy of an anti-life agenda, often under false pretences, and one that was best summed up by the Dutch pro-life organization Schreeuw om Leven. It noted after the Habitat II conference in Istanbul in 1996: “Reading through the conference declarations and hearing the reports of attendees, a quite different picture arises than the UN’s declared interest in the growth of urban centres or, in the case of the Beijing women’s conference in 1995, the plight of women in attaining true equality.” Schreeuw om Leven continued: “It is not a picture of global concern for global issues, nor protection of suffering peoples against international aggression. Rather, it is an attack on societal values concerning life and family, an aggressive abortion policy for reason of greed on an international scale, the blackmail of needy nations and a disdain for national integrity.”

Question

1. How did the concerns for economic development, protecting the environment, and sustainability, as well as “human rights” and “equality” turn into policies for promoting population control, “reproductive rights,” abortion-on-demand, and anti-family policies?

A short history of major UN conferences

Cairo (1961)

Scandinavian delegates at the First World Population Conference pushed to have permissive birth control policies a condition of a nation receiving foreign aid from institutions such as the World Bank. But the conference deferred to the position of countries such as Argentina in acknowledging that moral issues were beyond the purview of the UN and Spain's warning that the promotion of contraceptives in countries that did not permit them would inevitably lead to a push for abortion and euthanasia.

Belgrade (1965)

The Second World Population Conference established the Trust Fund for Population Activities, which would help pay for population-control schemes through the World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNESCO, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Bank. By 1969, the Fund established its own board, enabling it to bypass the scrutiny of member states. It also changed its name to the UN Fund for Population Activities – the UNFPA.

Stockholm (1972)

The first UN conference on the “human environment” saw the industrialized nations demonstrate an interest in environmental issues for the first time.

Bucharest (1974)

Population control was described as a desirable goal for the first time by the industrialized nations at the World Population Conference, held during what the UN billed as World Population Year. While the WPY Secretariat gave lip service to the “principle” that a couple had the right “to decide the size of its family” free of coercion, the conference's objectives included: improved information on demographic trends; the provision of sex education, maternal and childcare through formal education; expansion of “international co-operation in population fields;” and stimulating “discussion of alternative population policies.” As innocuous as all this sounded, the developing world understood what it meant as its delegations attacked population control as a form of Western imperialism. Subsequently, every reference to population targets was removed from the proposed World Population Plan of Action. To avoid such confrontations between the developed West and the Third World, Catholic World Report magazine stated in 1993, “From then on,

everything would be couched in terms which disguised the real motives for the programs.”

Mexico City (1984)

The International Conference on Population was intended to determine what “progress” was being made on the World Population Plan for Action from the Bucharest conference, but the United States made headlines when it was announced that president Ronald Reagan would henceforth prohibit the funding of abortion-providing organizations. While noting that “since Bucharest, the global population growth rate has declined,” the final declaration recommitted the world community to the promotion of “safe and effective family-planning methods.”

Rio de Janeiro (1991)

Led by Maurice Strong, the Earth Summit's secretary-general, the delegates committed their nations to goals of sustainable development (see above), a policy animated by the view that the presence of human beings and the continued health of the planet were diametrically at odds. The final document's commitment to sustainability would lay the foundation for the promotion of anti-life policies at future conferences on population, cities, social development, women's rights and human rights.

Cairo (1994)

The direction of the Population and Development Conference was clear

from the beginning with the naming of Nafis Sadik, executive director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, as the secretary-general of the conference. The UNFPA and Sadik were both vigorous promoters of abortion and contraception. Furthermore, the chairman of the drafting committee for that conference was a former chairman of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Not surprisingly, nearly \$15 billion of the \$17 billion committed to “development aid” at that conference was devoted to population-control activities.

Beijing (1995)

Far from seeking to promote genuine equality for women, and addressing the real concerns of women trapped in poverty in the developing world, the Beijing conference was hijacked by feminists (led by U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton), who sought to promote abortion-on-demand, tie development aid to population control programs and foist radical sex education



programs upon the developing world. At the time, The Interim reported that sessions were often delayed and forced to drag on until the middle of the night until smaller delegations, typically from more conservative (morally speaking) developing nations and the Islamic world were exhausted and left the proceedings. In their absence, feminist-led Western delegations rammed through a proposal to consider reproductive health as “a human right.”

Istanbul (1996)

Ostensibly, Habitat II on Human Settlements was a conference examining urban issues, but it picked up where the Cairo conference left off. The UN highlighted scary projections of cities bursting at the seams with people and insufficient resources to provide even basic levels of service for them. However, pro-life groups learned from their experience in Beijing and, working with the Holy See, Muslim nations, predominantly Catholic Latin American nations and many African nations concerned about their traditional ways of life, were successful in preventing the final document from taking a too-stridently anti-life position. The secretary-general of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Ingar Brueggemann, stated she “misjudged ... the strong presence of the pro-life lobby at the conference ... We were a little naive to assume that the issue had been dealt with ... at Beijing. Perhaps we should have called some more pro-family planning NGOs to Istanbul.” There were more than 2,000 pro-abortion NGOs at Istanbul, compared to just over 100 pro-life ones.

Rome (1996)

At the Food and Agricultural Organization-sponsored food summit, a conference ostensibly about the world’s future food situation, there were more than 500 references to population policies, reproductive health and women’s education (in which the UN often inserted sex education programs that encouraged sexual promiscuity and the normalization of homosexuality). That agenda was pushed by the Clinton administration, which advocated “population stabilization” and family planning as key components to achieving world food security - the ostensible goal of the Rome summit. The rationale seemed to be that the fewer mouths there were to feed, the better. The FAO altered the rules for NGO participation by making it more difficult for pro-life NGOs to observe and participate in the proceedings.

UN Millennium Summit (2000)

The week-long conference held at the UN’s headquarters in New York called for a central role for the international body in “managing worldwide economic and social development,” despite the UN Charter specifically forbidding the UN from “interven(ing) in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of the state.” There were renewed attempts to have abortion declared a fundamental human right. As Steve Mosher of the Population

Research Institute noted at the time, “Instead of protecting existing human rights ... The UN twists the notion of human rights beyond recognition by attempting to define new rights, such as the ‘right’ to abortion.”



Aug. 30, 2000 - During the Millennium World Peace Summit, Ted Turner, who was introduced by New Age billionaire Maurice Strong, made fun of Christianity and endorsed New Age ideas. Immediately Turner denounced his own childhood Christian faith. The crowd’s laughter turned to approving whoops as Turner explained he turned away from Christianity when he discovered “It was intolerant because it taught we were the only ones going to heaven. That confused the devil out of me since that would have left heaven a very empty place.”

Questions

In a sentence for each event/conference/summit summarize and explain the key point that was being promoted or established at each of the events. Is there a clear pattern to intervene and speak on population issues from an anti-life stance?

1. permissive birth control policies a condition of a nation receiving foreign aid from institutions such as the World Bank.
2. UN Fund for Population Activities
3. human environment

4. population control described as a desirable goal for the first time by the industrialized nations
5. Ronald Reagan prohibits the funding of abortion-providing organizations.
6. goals of sustainable development
7. development aid at that conference was devoted to population-control activities.
8. proposal to consider reproductive health as “a human right.”
9. urban issues UN highlighted scary projections of cities bursting at the seams with people and insufficient resources.
10. food summit saw more than 500 references to population policies, reproductive health and women’s education
11. central role for the international body in “managing worldwide economic and social development,”

is the children who suffer most from the inability of parents to provide sufficient care and attention to their large families.” By 1970, UNICEF was providing contraceptives and in 1974, UNICEF began its first major propaganda campaign, a publication entitled, “Stop at Two! – Mauritius Takes Family Planning Action,” which encouraged families to have only two children.

As Winifride Prestwich, a longtime *Interim* editorial advisory board member and former columnist, noted in the booklet, “UNICEF: Guilty as Charged,” despite repeated denials by the children’s emergency fund that it does not promote abortifacient contraceptives, there is a record that goes back at least as far as 1970 in promoting their use. Prestwich notes that the 1974 Population Report from George Washington University reported that UNICEF “supplied tablets and raw materials” equivalent to five million doses. By 1977, it was exposed that UNICEF was providing oral contraceptives, IUDs, condoms, diaphragms and spermicides. Prestwich reported that the 1979 Population Report from Johns Hopkins University found “about 80 per cent of the (oral) contraceptives funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities are purchased by the United Nations Children’s Fund.”

Prestwich also demonstrated the extensive support of sterilization programs in the 1980s and the organization’s support for China’s family planning program, which included coerced abortion. In 1987, UNICEF endorsed the recommendations of the International Conference on Better Health for Women and Children Through Family Planning, including one that read: “Where legal, good-quality abortion services should be made easily accessible to all women.” By 1992, some UNICEF delegates were advocating abortion in countries where it was not legal. As Prestwich concluded in her landmark study, “It is a mistake to think of UNICEF as a charity,” because “those who work to feed and clothe the impoverished children are not involved” in deciding how the organization’s funding is used.

UNFPA



In 1971, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities was put under its own authority to assist developing countries

in “assessing and coping” with population issues and to act as a provider and supporter of “population projects.” The UNFPA is the leading distributor of condoms, providing literally billions of them to the developed world. In 1998-1999, the Fund spent 58 per cent of its procurement budget on contraceptives. It is also the leading enabler of abortion facilities in most countries, including India, the Philippines and Vietnam. Its ubiquitous support of abortion eventually led to its

Which UN organizations promote anti-life policies?

The World Health Organization



In the 1960s, the WHO limited itself to providing technical assistance on, and reference services for, population-related health services. But by the 1990’s, the WHO was establishing “reproductive centres” that provided contraceptives, including ones that were

abortifacient. It fully embraced “family planning services” as part of its “comprehensive” maternal and child health care program.

UNICEF



The UN International Children’s Emergency Fund long denied any involvement in population control schemes, specifically the promotion of contraceptives and family planning. But why else would the UNFPA give millions of dollars to UNICEF, but for population programs? As early as 1966, UNICEF budgeted nearly \$700,000 for family planning programs, a figure that rose to \$4.3 million within six years – all during a time in which UNICEF denied any involvement in such programs. Henry Labouisse, UNICEF’s executive director at the time, said the organization was concerned about the “population explosion,” because “it

involvement with China's one-child policy. While it has long denied it endorses coercive abortions and forced sterilizations, Douglas Sylva, formerly of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, found the "UNFPA's involvement in the one-child policy has been much more substantial than initially thought." The Fund: gave Red China \$50 million in 1979 to launch its program through the Chinese State Family Planning Commission; it has served as its principal international defender; and provided information to the CSFPC that it used to set population quotas. Sylva's report on the UNFPA also exposed the Fund's role in Vietnam's two-child policy.

In 1997, the UNFPA released a document, "The Right to Reproductive and Sexual Health," which outlined the development of "a human-rights approach to reproductive health" and its evolution from "the right of family planning" as enunciated at the 1968 Teheran Human Rights Conference to the "affirmation" of the "right" to "better sexual and reproductive health" at the Cairo and Beijing conferences in the mid-1990s. Despite the efforts of the UNFPA and other anti-life agencies and organizations, abortion itself has not been declared a fundamental human right.

The Food and Agricultural Organization



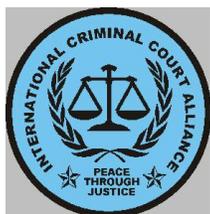
The FAO would ostensibly not deal with family planning, but during the 1970s, it was pressured by other UN agencies, most notably the UNFPA, and the U.S. delegation to distribute condoms in the developing world in its packages of powdered milk and cartons of grain. Pro-life groups expressed concern that the UN would tie food aid to the acceptance of contraceptives where local laws would not otherwise permit them. The FAO has denied doing this.

The International Labour Organization



In 1968, the ILO established its "family limitation mandate," wherein it began including family planning information in its workers' education resource packages. It advocates through its worldwide connection to trade unions and other labour organizations, making family planning services a part of employment packages.

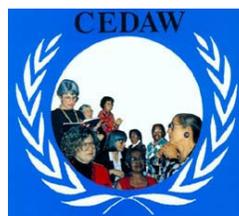
International Criminal Court



Established in Rome in 1998, the ICC is intended to prosecute crimes against humanity when nation-states are unwilling or unable to take action against those who commit genocide or other grievous crimes. Unfortunately, what the ICC considers a crime against humanity is ill-defined. Despite some laudable goals, there were a number of particular concerns for pro-lifers.

Foremost among them was the ill-defined concept of "enforced pregnancy" as an international crime. This term, if not properly defined, could be used to declare any law against abortion a crime. In other words, any nation that prohibits abortion would be forcing a woman to remain pregnant which would violate her human rights. Thus, a "human right" to abortion would be created. As LifeSiteNews.com reported at the time, "As one pro-family lobbyist said, 'This is a step in the direction of having all restrictions on abortion declared criminal.'" Furthermore, individual and special-interest groups may lay complaints with the court. This could turn the court into an extraordinarily powerful instrument of forced social change by feminist, homosexual and other radical social change groups. The presence of feminist and other radical NGOs at the founding convention raises serious concerns about the use of the ICC as a tool for massive social change.

CEDAW



The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, established by the UN General Assembly in 1979, meets regularly to assess discrimination against women. Predictably, it has a broad definition of what constitutes discrimination.

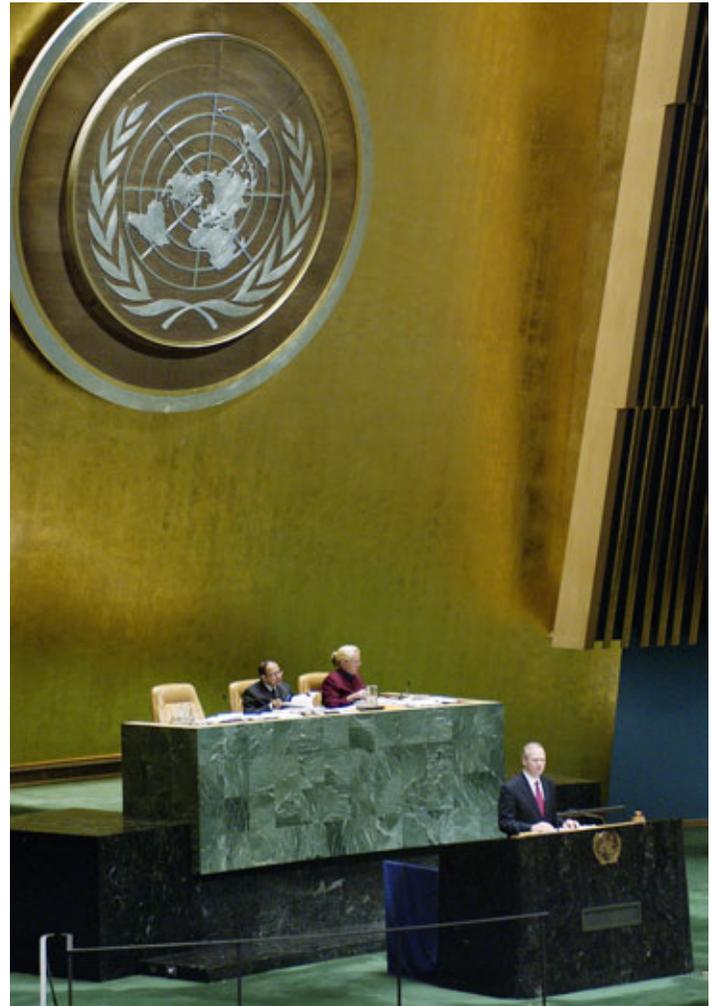
It often cites countries for their "restrictive" abortion laws and lack of easily available "reproductive health services." The Committee has often reiterated its opposition to the use of cultural and religious distinctiveness as reasons to resist implementing CEDAW resolutions: "Traditional, religious and cultural practices, or incompatible domestic laws and polices, did not justify violations of the Convention." Examples of their anti-life advocacy would fill volumes, but typical examples include its 1998 condemnation of Slovakia's "legislative and cultural overemphasis on motherhood and family roles for women," as it urged the eastern European nation to implement a universal daycare program, and its 2002 criticism of Peru that it had not done enough to change "cultural attitudes" about abortion and that it had not legalized the "morning-after pill." While both nations resisted CEDAW pressure, many others buckled to the Convention's wishes.

Conclusion

As the PRI's Steve Mosher has noted, "Despite having a Charter that touts the 'dignity and worth of the human person,' the UN acts as though all people, born and unborn, are a burden and not a blessing." During each major conference, the proceedings and final document paint humanity as an unwelcome intruder on the planet. The UN has come a long way from its early visions of being the last, great hope for mankind to being an international organization intent on eliminating a large portion of the human species.

Question

1. Why has the UN taken a broad interest in population issues?
2. Is the record of the UN on population matters an item of concern?
3. Can one reconcile the UN's humanitarian mission with its apparent "anti-life agenda"?
4. Does the International Criminal Court pose a danger as a tool for "massive social change"? How or why not?
5. Is the UN too powerful or arrogant by imposing/tying economic aid to restrictive population policies on certain countries?
6. Is Steve Moshier on target when he concludes that "Despite having a Charter that touts the 'dignity and worth of the human person,' the UN acts as though all people, born and unborn, are a burden and not a blessing"?



The United Nations General Assembly met on November 16, 2004 to discuss oceans and the law of the sea. On the agenda were Reports of the Secretary-General, a Report of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, a draft resolution, and the issue of sustainable fisheries. The Honourable Geoff Regan, Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, delivered a speech to the General Assembly outlining Canada's strategy to combat overfishing and to improve international fisheries governance.

