

2020-2021

# UNA NZ NEWS

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND  
TE ROOPU WHAKAKOTAHI WHENUA O AOTERAROA



UNA · NZ



**About the UNA NZ News**

The UNA NZ News is the annual printed and virtual publication of the United Nations Association of New Zealand. UNA NZ welcomes articles, short letters, and images from outside sources for our e-newsletters and other publications. If you would like to submit something for consideration, please send it to the editor at [office@unanz.org.nz](mailto:office@unanz.org.nz)

**Cover image**

UN photo: A police officer wearing a UN blue helmet participates in the decontamination of public place in Bamako, a joint operation between the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and the Directorate General of Health in the Grand Marche of Bamako.



# Contents

President’s Introduction .....	1
Outgoing President’s Reflections .....	3
A Moment for Friends .....	5
United Nations Day 2020 – Marking the 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations .....	8
Secretary General’s UN Day Message .....	12
Marking the 5 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals .....	13
“On What Does the Security of New Zealand Depend? What is Our Role as Community?” .....	17
Whenua Ūkaipō Connectedness .....	19
“Building Back Better”: A Sustainable, Resilient Economic Recovery after COVID-19 .....	23
Joint Project on UN Renewal .....	26
A Seat at the Table - New Zealand and the Security Council 2015-2016 .....	28
An Update on the Work of the World Federation of United Nations Associations .....	30
Volunteering - The Base of UNA NZ .....	31
UNA NZ Manawatu .....	32
Climate Related Threats to Human Rights in the Pacific. ....	34
The Ban Treaty, Biden and New Zealand: Making the Most of New Opportunities for Nuclear Disarmament .....	36
The Question of the Te Ao Māori Worldview and the SDGs .....	39
Public Perceptions of the United Nations .....	47
Mina Mirzakhani-Moghaddam .....	47
Fostering Sustainable Economy Transition: The role of Legislation .....	49
UNA NZ CONFERENCE .....	54
2020 UNA NZ Speech Award .....	59
UNA NZ PRESIDENT REPORT FOR UNA NZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING .....	63
UN YOUTH NEW ZEALAND REPORT FOR UNA NZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING .....	67
Spirit of Service of Joy Dunsheath JP Recognised with Honorary Life Membership .....	70
CODICIL .....	72
Our People .....	73

# President's Introduction

Gaya Paranisamy

I am incredibly excited to officially begin my first term as President of the United Nations Association of New Zealand replacing the leadership of our amazing outgoing President, Peter Nichols. I am very lucky and thank Peter Nichols and Joy Dunsheath for laying the trajectory of a 'healthy and stable organisation' which I would like to maintain and continue the values and culture which both leaders have formed in the past.

I moved from Malaysia to New Zealand 5 years ago to work on the Christchurch Earthquake rebuild. After one year working in Christchurch, I was offered a job in Wellington as a Cost Manager with a Quantity Surveyor in an Engineering Firm in Wellington.

My journey in New Zealand has been a spiritual journey of self-discovery. I was a die-hard Hobbit & LOTR fan which made me visit New Zealand and I then moved to Aotearoa 6 months after my visit. The most interesting part of my journey is the amazing people I have met in New Zealand. Never did I know that I will be given the opportunity to lead such an important association.

I have been a volunteer with UNA NZ for over 3 years. I served as a Vice-President for over two years before getting elected as the President of UNA NZ. Peter Nichols, my predecessor has been mentoring me and providing me with all the knowledge I need for the Presidency.

As you know, the goal of UNA NZ is to 'help New Zealanders understand the UN and promote engagement with it, and we work together with others to raise the importance of finding ways to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, Global Security and UN Renewal.'

My aspiration as the President is to promote UN engagement with the wider sectors, especially within the private sectors, large to small size businesses and to work with young and indigenous/pacific people on promoting SDG's.

I must firstly acknowledge the efforts of many volunteers who contributed willingly to achieve our goal of Promoting engagement with the United Nations. Firstly, I acknowledge our Executive Officer Maisy Bentley, Communication Officer Danika Ciullo and Treasurer Dan Howard. They have kept us active through routine administration, finance management, managing our social media, advertising events, website updating, event and IT support, amongst many other activities. I also acknowledge the support and guidance of the National Council, the most recent held in Auckland. I am accountable to the Council for our 'state of health', our activities and implementation of our strategic plan.

I rely heavily on the National Executive to oversee our finances, arrange events, coordinate various activities and to peer over the horizon. I thank all the office holders for their support.

But in reality, the 'health' of UNA NZ, is in the hands of the Branches, which span from Auckland to Canterbury. We also have volunteers to run the newly formed Branch in Palmerston North recently with great enthusiasm. My appreciation and admiration to the Branch Presidents for their time and effort to achieve our goals. We also have Special Officers - our subject matter experts on: UN renewal, the Sustainable Development Goals UN Agenda 2030, Citizen's Voice, Peace and Security, Tangata Whenua and Human Rights, amongst others.

Dr. Kennedy Graham and Colin Keating did an amazing job in producing the discussion document on UN renewal – 'Time to Upgrade Our Global Institutions: A fresh vision from Aotearoa New Zealand.' UNA NZ co-sponsored the project with the NZ Centre for Global Studies. We consistently held a very successful UN secondary school's speech competition with Joy Dunsheath leading the process nationwide to promote the event and conduct it on the day. Well done to Joy Dunsheath JP, former National President, who was successfully elected to the UN World Federation of United Nations Associations and became a UNA NZ Life Honorary Member. Joy has represented us internationally as WFUNA representative and is a great mentor to most of our young volunteers.

Last but not least, I welcome all the new volunteers who has joined us recently, ready to embark with us on a journey filled with excitement. I am proud to say that I have such a diverse team working together.

We have certainly done well for 2020 despite the pandemic which swept through the world, we have managed to thrive as an organisation.

Our work will continue and there will be many more interesting events and topics that we will be engaging in in the near future.

I am honoured to lead and work with such an amazing team. But nothing we do would be possible without a strong community of people passionate enough to support and engage with us. As civil society, I hope we can continue to carry that torch and serve the evolving needs of our organisation and community.

I look forward to a great time serving as your new president.

Thank you.

**Gaya Paranisamy**

UNA NZ President



# Outgoing President's Reflections

## 19 May 2018 – 31 December 2020



Throughout almost 1,000 days as President, my focus has naturally been looking forward: what is the next major event to be organised? Is the agenda out for the next National Executive meeting? How are the finances tracking, and so on? But at the conclusion of my time, it is sometimes worthwhile to reflect on the journey, and how we have progressed to meet our goal of **promoting engagement with the United Nations**. I therefore thought it might be useful to provide my perspective on achievements over the past two and a half years.

When I assumed the appointment, I found our financial situation was at risk of running out of money 2/3rds through the year. We solved that with realisation of approximately \$10,000 having not being paid to us by our trustees to cover the web project, laptops and printer. We fixed that, and now the executive has approximately \$20,000 in the accounts.

### Significant achievements

We have:

- Launched the website
- Published 3 magazines
- Held 3 speech competitions
- Hosted a dozen interns
- Supported Branches and UN Youth
- Issued guides for Branches and Special Officers
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Transparency International NZ
- Held 5 National Council meetings, including 1 in Napier and 1 in Auckland
- Held 3 AGMs and 3 conferences, 1 of those virtual
- Approved the Travel policy, and the Bequest pamphlet
- Held dozens of events, notably UN Days, Human Rights days, 20th anniversary of UN Youth
- Issued a press release regarding Bishop Tamaki's allegation the UN uses COVID to 'control people'
- Updated the Constitution and Handbook
- Recruited 2 Administrators and numerous other appointments including Treasurer, Secretary and Events Officer
- Maintained and updated the strategic plan
- Attended a variety of diplomatic events
- Rejuvenated the relationship and quarterly meetings with MFAT
- Established a new Manawatu Branch
- Linked with the NZ Centre for Global Studies to produce a discussion paper for an upgraded UN System
- Navigated COVID
- Almost completed the Factsheet

### Email statistics

For the lovers of statistics, during my tenure between 19 May 2018 – 31 December 2020, 956 days (excluding a few weeks on leave), I received 12,550 UN related emails or 13 per day, and sent 7,373, or an average of 7.7 per day.



It's been busy. I've very much appreciated the opportunity to serve. I extend my appreciation to all who have made the above possible, thank you.

I am sure you will continue to provide the same support and understanding to Gaya, whom I wish every success to.

Let's keep the momentum to enlighten New Zealanders on the admirable work of the United Nations.

*He waka eke noa A canoe which we are all in with no exception*

Peter Nichols  
Outgoing National President

# A Moment for Friends

Written by Peter Nichols

**Mary McGiven** *(February 2020)*

I and my United Nations Association of New Zealand (UNA NZ) National Council colleagues are profoundly saddened to learn of the passing of long-serving life member Mary McGiven. I wish to place on record the very deep appreciation of the United Nations Association of New Zealand for Mary's great contributions to the life of our Association.

It is a very special acknowledgement to be granted life membership as it reflects a considerable contribution to the United Nations Association of New Zealand National Council over many years. Mary was National President of UNA NZ. She was a quiet worker, and consistent in her efforts to promote the UN ideals and the Christchurch perspective for us in the rest of NZ. Mary was 100% committed to the ideals and values of the United Nations and led and served the Canterbury Branch and the national organisation with dedication and care. Mary will be remembered by many UN Youth leaders as someone passionate about the model United Nations in Canterbury and a staunch advocate for UN Education more generally. Mary was a stalwart and the backbone of the UN Association and she will be remembered with reverence and a deep sense of appreciation.

I have put down here only a brief summary of Mary's enormous contributions to the life of UNA NZ.

On behalf of the United Nations Association of New Zealand whanau, I again express my deepest condolences for the loss of a generous and highly respected member of the broader community. She will be missed.

**Gita Brooke** *(February 2020)*

I and my United Nations Association of New Zealand National Council colleagues are profoundly saddened to learn of the passing of long-serving life member Gita Brooke. I wish to place on record the very deep appreciation of the United Nations Association of New Zealand for Gita's great contributions to the life of our Association.

It is a very special acknowledgement to be granted life membership as it reflects a considerable contribution to the United Nations Association of New Zealand National over many years. Gita was a dedicated and tireless worker for peace, and worked closely for many years with Dame Laurie Salas and Robin Halliday. She was a stalwart and the backbone of the UN Association of NZ Whanganui branch and she will be remembered with reverence and a deep sense of appreciation.

I have put down here only a brief summary of Gita's enormous contributions to the life of UNA NZ.

On behalf of the United Nations Association of New Zealand whanau, I again express my deepest condolences for the loss of a generous and highly respected member of the broader community. She will be missed.



PHOTO/ BEVAN CONLEY

**Mary McGivern** (Centre with Dr Graham Hassall and Jean-Paul Bizoza)



PHOTO/ JOY DUNSHEATH

# UNA NZ EVENTS

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# United Nations Day 2020 – Marking the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations

On Thursday 19 October 2020 UNA NZ marked UN Day at the New Zealand Parliament. A summary of the key speeches and proceedings is below.



Rob Thorne is an artist whose performance features in the Whenua Ūkaipō public programme. He is pictured performing at the 2020 UN Day reception.

Rt Hon Trevor Mallard hosted the Association and its guests at New Zealand Parliament and offered some opening remarks.





Gaya Paranisamy is the United Nations Association of New Zealand's 2021 National President. Gaya was the Master of Ceremonies for the reception.

Her Excellency Mira Woldberg is the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. At the United Nations Day Reception, Her Excellency spoke about the importance of multilateralism to countries like the Netherlands and small nations more generally.



Colin Keating is a former Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations. Colin addressed the guests attending the reception, sharing insights on UN reform.



Chris Seed is the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He addressed the attendees of the reception. Mr Seed spoke about New Zealand's relationship with the United Nations.

Louise Aubin is the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, regional Representative to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Louise addressed the reception via video message and read the Secretary-General's UN day address.



Mark Howard UN Youth National President delivered the final speech of the evening. Mark offered an inspiring message about what global challenges occupy the minds of young people and why we should engage with young people on those matters.



Maisy Bentley is UNA NZ's Executive Officer and runs our National Office. Maisy closed the speeches by reading the United Nations Charter preamble.

UNA NZ would like to extend its thanks in particular to Wendy Hart UNA NZ events officer for her time, dedication and expertise in organising this event.



The United Nations Association of New Zealand would also like to thank the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their support to make this event possible, to Rt Hon Trevor Mallard the speaker of the house for hosting us at New Zealand Parliament, Eva Kaprinay for capturing the event wonderfully with her photography and to all our members and supporters for attending.

# Secretary General's UN Day Message

Dear friends,

The 75th anniversary of the United Nations falls in the middle of a global pandemic. Our founding mission is more critical than ever. To promote human dignity. Protect human rights. Respect international law. And save humanity from war.

When the pandemic hit, I called for a global ceasefire.

In our world today, we have one common enemy: COVID-19.

Now is the time for a stepped-up push for peace to achieve a global ceasefire. The clock is ticking.

We must also make peace with our planet. The climate emergency threatens life itself.

We must mobilize the whole world to reach carbon neutrality -- net zero emissions of greenhouse gasses by 2050.

A growing number of countries and companies have already pledged to meet this goal.

Around the world, we must do more to end human suffering from poverty, inequality, hunger and hatred -- and fight discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender or any other distinction. The months of pandemic have seen a horrific rise in violence against women and girls.

We must build on progress. A remarkable global collaboration is under way for a safe, affordable and accessible COVID-19 vaccine for all.

The Sustainable Development Goals give us an inspiring blueprint for recovering better.

We face colossal challenges. With global solidarity and cooperation, we can overcome them.

That's what the United Nations is all about.

On this anniversary, I ask people everywhere to join together.

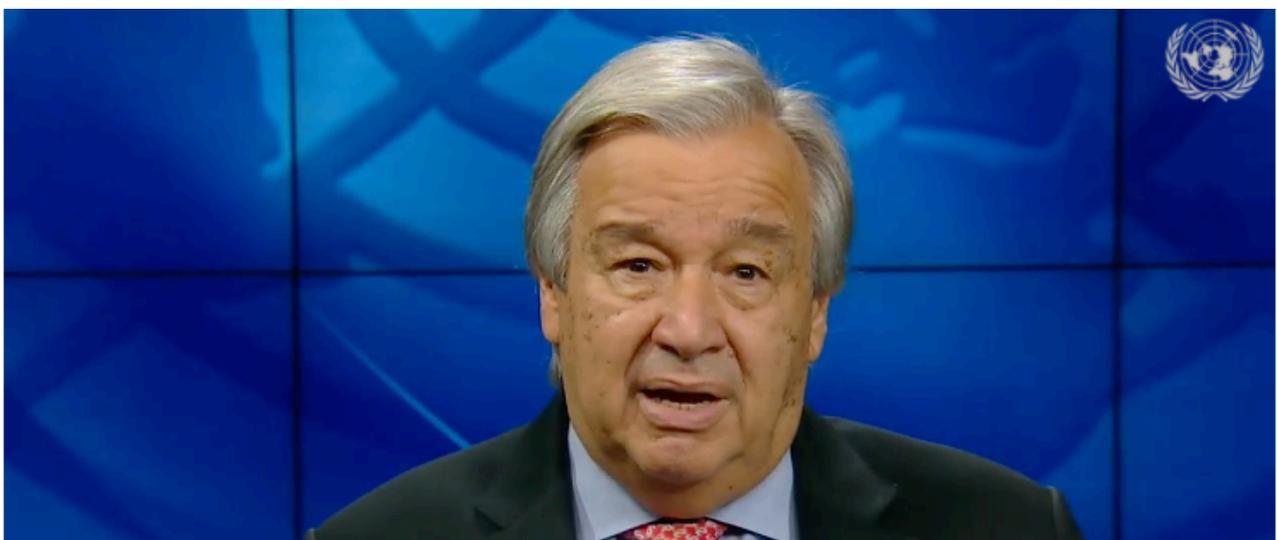
The United Nations not only stands with you...

The United Nations belongs to you and is you: "we the peoples".

Together, let us uphold the enduring values of the United Nations Charter.

Let us build on our advances across the decades.

Let us realize our shared vision of a better world for all.





The United Nations  
Association of New Zealand  
Te Roopu Whakakotahi  
Whenua o Aotearoa



## Marking the 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Maisy Bentley

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 marked 5 years since the leaders of the world committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

To mark this event the United Nations Association of New Zealand hosted a 5 day campaign from Monday 21 September - Friday 25 September 2020.

The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness of, encourage engagement with and celebrate progress already made towards, the Sustainable Development Goals.

Each day had a focus, resources and a call to action. The relevant resources and activities are explained in more detail below.

The campaign culminated in a panel event on Friday 25 September hosted at the Victoria University of Wellington School of Governance with a panel of private sector, public sector and academic leaders on the SDGs. The event sought to connect those who have worked towards the sustainable development goals or have recently been inspired into action.



## DAY ONE

People were asked to share the People's Report on the Sustainable Development Goals to get people understanding the SDGs in NZ, where the gaps are, read some inspiring case studies and be inspired into action.

A copy of The People's Report on the Sustainable Development Goals can be accessed [here](https://www.sdg.org.nz/peoples-report/): <https://www.sdg.org.nz/peoples-report/>

**Action one - Share on social media.** Here are some ideas for how to caption your post:

"The peoples report draws on tangata whenua, communities and organisations diverse insights and expertise through a national survey, interviews, available data and existing reports. It provides a range of views about Aotearoa New Zealand's progress on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Check it out here: "

"The Peoples Report on the Sustainable Development Goals measures what progress we have made towards the SDG's and how far we have to go. Read more here: "

"How do we ensure 'no one is left behind' as we work towards the SDGs? Using data, interviews, surveys and existing reports the Peoples Report on the Sustainable Development Goals provides 39 recommendations. Read it here: "

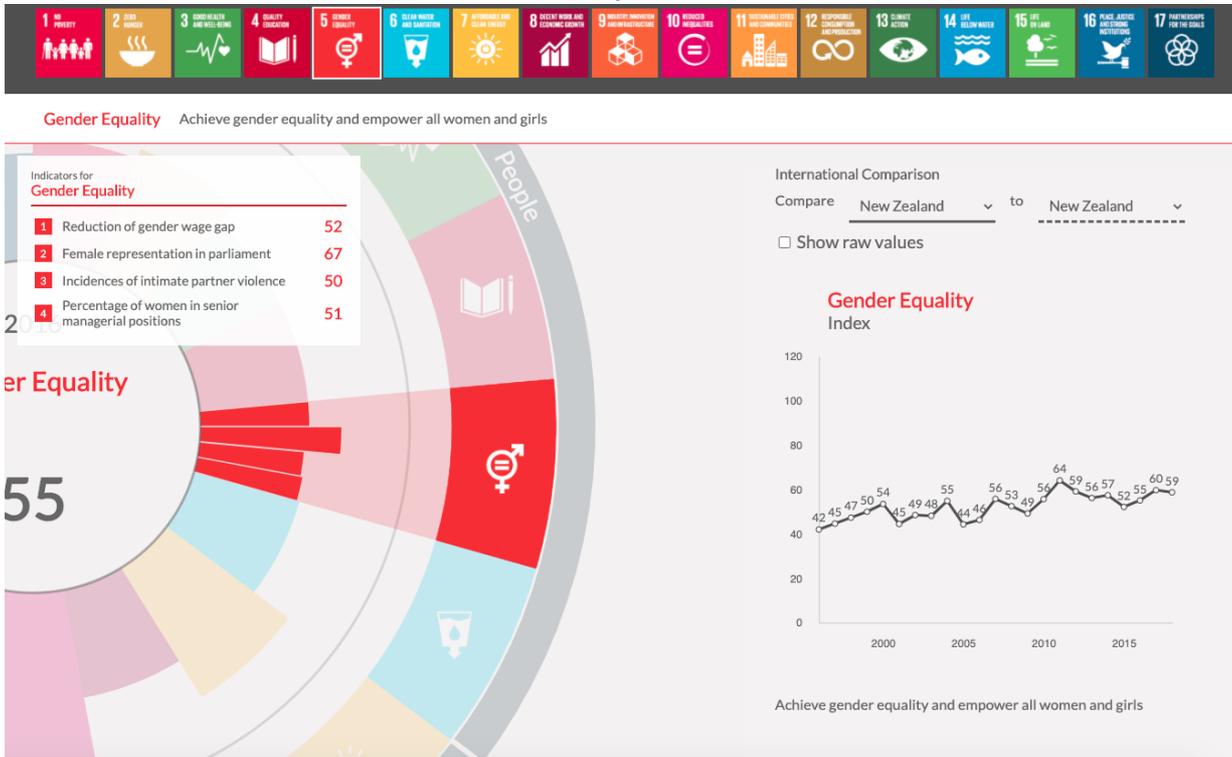
### Share one of the case studies

**Kaibosh case study**- share in your organisation to ask what is done about food waste at work events.

Kaibosh is Aotearoa New Zealand's first food recue organisation. Providing the link between the food industry and those that support people in need. Read the full case study on page 28 of the report.



People were asked to share the United Nations policy briefs and SDG hub interactive data to those in government, the private sector, and ensure their COVID19 recovery progresses the goals.



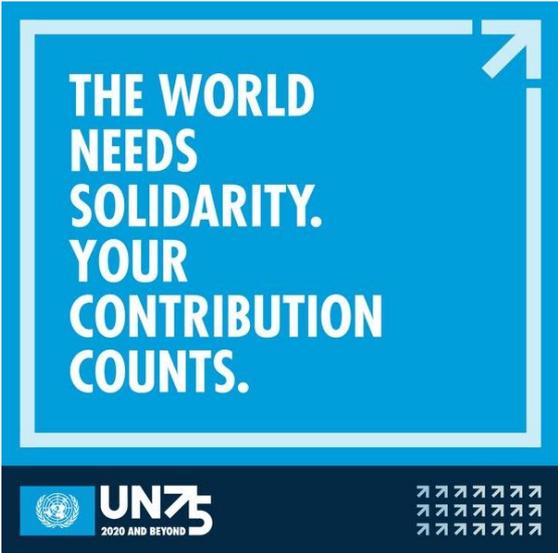
DAY THREE

People were asked to share the SDG they care about most. While all the SDGs are interlinked and equally important we all have one that we identify with most. Whether it's at a work stand up, office morning tea, on social media or changing their signature for a day, participants were able to help bring attention to the SDG most important to them.



Here were some tips we shared with participants:

- If posting on social media make sure to tag us
- Explain to people why you are sharing
- Use the hashtags #UN75 #SDG #UN
- Tag 3 friends or colleagues and nominate them to share too



People were asked to complete the UN @75 survey – 2020 marked 75 years since the creation of the United Nations COVID19 is a stark reminder of the need for international cooperation. The survey allowed people to have their say on what matters to them, what the UN should focus on and how it can improve.

DAY FIVE

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT PANEL EVENT.

At this event attendees heard from Associate Professor Christian Schott, Rebecca Barnes Clarke, Director of Policy Ministry for Women and Matt Dagger from Kaibosh. Attendees heard about the diverse ways the panellists had been championing the SDGs and brainstormed future solutions such as a Commissioner for the SDGs.



# "On What Does the Security of New Zealand Depend? What is Our Role as Community?"

This event initiated by Dr Rosalind McIntosh and Gray Southon was a diverse online panel of experts addressed perspectives on security and their implications in New Zealand hosted on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, 6.30-8.30 pm by Zoom.

The Covid-19 pandemic has made many of us acutely aware of how very dependent our lives are, on the actions of others here and beyond our borders. We are questioning aspects of New Zealand's security that we once may have assumed were being taken care of. Now is a fertile time to reassess what security means for us as a community, and as a nation. What threats are important and how can we best address them? What does this mean for how we see ourselves, our community values, our international standing, and our prosperity?

This event was an initial exploration to stimulate thinking on some selected security questions within and beyond our shores. UNA NZ gathered four very different speakers to set the scene for audience discussion and feedback.

## Speakers

**Tony Lynch**, an experienced diplomat, is now Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), where the nations' security policy is based. He heads the National Security Group and set the official policy and how security is managed.

**Dr. Richard Jackson**, Director of the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies in the University of Otago. He discussed how the combined impact of the covid-19 pandemic, the black lives matter protests, rising economic inequality and the climate change crisis made the orthodox security paradigm redundant. He will discuss how we might begin to rethink our notions of national security, including the idea of replacing national military forces with social defence.

**Gray Southon**, a long-standing member of the United Nations Association and President of the Tauranga Branch. He has studied issues of security and community perspectives for decades. He explored how our community often views security and factors that support those views. He also outlined the potential of a more constructive security through greater community engagement.

**Raf Manji**, a former Christchurch City Councillor and currently a strategy and risk consultant with a background in global finance. He spoke as a prominent member of the Christchurch community deeply involved in the city's recent crises and their aftermath, and looked at how national security issues impacted local communities.

Facilitator: **Joy Dunsheath** JP, National President (2016-2018) and Honorary Life Member of United Nations Association. A former teacher and Cultural / Arts Director with involvement in human rights, justice, education, and gender equality. She is a regular speaker and radio contributor on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



The United Nations  
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Te Roopu Whakakotahi  
Whenua o Aotearoa

Online Webinar

## Family violence in a time of Pandemic

Tuesday 23 June 2020, 6.00pm -7.30pm (NZST)

Register at Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-violence-in-a-time-of-pandemic-tickets-108831566144>

Tickets

Unwaged/students: Koha

General Admission: \$10 - \$20

*Proceeds support Women's Refuge, UN Women, and UNANZ*



Join the conversation.  
Be the change.

## Human Rights Day

Human Rights in the Face of COVID-19 and Global Climate Crisis:  
Challenges and Opportunities for the Pacific Region



Thursday 10 December  
5:30PM-7:30PM  
New Zealand Parliament  
Wellington



Join the Conversation. Be the change.

# Whenua Ūkaipō Connectedness

Jill Oakley

Whenua Ūkaipō Connectedness is an exhibition which wove together the artistic visions of Māori, Aboriginal, Samoan, Fijian, Kānaka Māoli (native Hawaiian), Samoan, Fijian, Indian, Australian and New Zealand artworks under the korowai - protective cloak - of the United Nations.

*Whatungarongaro te tangata, toitū te whenua  
As people disappear from sight, the land remains*



This whakatauki (Maori proverb) acknowledges our respect for Papatūānuku, our earth mother, and causes us to reflect on her wellbeing today.

Whenua Ūkaipō Connectedness is an exhibition with an important global message which was brought to Wellington (Whanganui-a-Tara) with the assistance of the United Nations Association of New Zealand. It was first presented in October 2020 to mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, and engages with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These goals are a global blueprint that strive to create a sustainable future for all by addressing the challenges we share, including poverty, inequality, climate, and environmental degradation.

Whenua Ūkaipō Connectedness speaks of the direct connection one has to the whenua (land) and te taiao (the natural environment) as a source of sustenance and a sense of belonging. Indigenous voices are brought forward and honoured within our exhibition. The art reveals distinct points of view on sustainability. Many of the exhibiting artists have a long history of art that conveys issues and concerns relating to te taiao (the world, the natural world, the environment, nature, and country).

The exhibition's curator, Piri Cowie (of Kāi Tahu, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu) Poutiaki Toi, has woven a kaupapa Māori approach throughout the exhibition. As the Poutiaki Toi (curator) Piri says, "Our lead artwork "Toa" by Baye Pewhairangi Riddell (Ngāti Porou) holds the stance of a Kaiwero (challenger) and is symbolic of the warrior qualities of courage, honour, respect, protection of whānau (family), leadership, skill, determination and perseverance. His work echoes the ancient forms of Ngā Toi Māori - Māori Art, while laying down the wero - kua takato te mānuka - a challenge, to consider the stand we are making for te taiao - our natural environment today". Of ceramics, Riddell says "Nō te uku. Hoki atū ki te uku. Nā te uku ka whakanui te oranga. From the clay. Back to the clay. Through the clay - I celebrate life."

Piri Cowie describes these notions as foundations for the exhibition. Cowie's own work also comes from a Te Ao Māori worldview and highlights SDG 14, Life Below Water. Piri says "Ko Au te Moana, ko to Moana ko au - I am the Ocean, the Ocean is me". Her work is a series of installations that reflect Mō tātou, ā mō kā uri āmuri ake nei - For us, and our children after us. The artworks represent Tuna - eels that are at risk in Aotearoa and speak of kaitiakitanga - guardianship and the responsibility to consider the choices we are making today.

Another exhibitor, Shayne Tuffery's work is inspired by the first missions to the moon. Tuffery explores the impact of the first photographs taken of earth from space. He sees the beauty and the fragility of our planet as having inspired generations of people to engage in environmental movements. The work acknowledges SDG 13, Climate Action.

Our collaboration with UNA NZ and the United Nations 75 Anniversary affirms our support and commitment to the ideals embodied in the UN Charter and the crucial role of the United Nations. By working together, we can overcome the challenges that we are all faced with.

The dialogue generated at Whenua Ūkaipō Connectedness between the artists, their works and panel discussions helped to provide cultural insights and meaning on some of the global issues facing our planet and humanity.

Artists, guest scientists, and like-minded thinkers from different disciplines, explored sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals from within different paradigms. All 12 Wā Kōrero events were broadcast live on Facebook and are now published on our exhibition website - [www.whenuaukaipo.nz](http://www.whenuaukaipo.nz).

'Our Precious Earth' was a cross - cultural panel discussion introduced by Joy Dunsheath (Executive Committee WFUNA) with James Renwick, climate scientist, Ronja Levers, Hui E! Community Aotearoa, and artists Laura Donkers and Simon Kaan. The talk centred on the fragility of our earth, the need to respect it , and to develop an understanding of the issues to work together to create a path forward.

On World Cities Day 2020, UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres remarked, "We are all closely interconnected and only by working together and in solidarity we can build resilience against future pandemics and other global challenges"

The exhibition has been endorsed by Fabrizio Hochschild-Drummond, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Commemoration of the United Nations 75th Anniversary, who is particularly excited about the indigenous perspective presented in the exhibition.

*"I would like to thank Aotearoa - New Zealand for this exhibition to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. Thank you for offering an art and indigenous lead perspective on the Sustainable Development Goals. Indigenous voices, in particular, are highly valued by the United Nations and we all benefit significantly when they are better heard, especially in the context of the debate around sustainability".*

Jill Oakley, the exhibition's Producer and Managing Director, (Tumu Whakaputa) said she is thrilled to have the backing of the United Nations, "I was inspired to create an exhibition with artwork exploring our connection to our land and culture, our impact on the natural world, and our understanding of the place we live and depend on."

Presented at the Public Trust Hall, Stout Street, Wellington and held between 31 October - 4 November, 2020 (5 days), the exhibition was free to the public and featured an extensive public programme called Wā Kōrero. Artists talks and performances were held twice daily, and included a collaboration between Dr Selina Marsh, Poet and Rob Thorne, Taonga Puoro, (traditional Māori instruments).

An exhibition catalogue can be found on [www.whenuaukaipo.nz](http://www.whenuaukaipo.nz). This provides insights into the artists' intentions and how their work interprets the exhibition theme, the importance and meaning of Whenua Ūkaipō Connectedness, and the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) and the Wā Kōrero sessions. The art documentation provides another entry point for contemplation and learning as an ongoing resource.

# Exhibiting Artists

Whenua Ūkaipō Connectedness also features work from:

Margaret Aull (NZ) - Te Rarawa, Tūwharetoa, Fiji,

Gabrielle Belz (NZ) - Ngāpuhi, Atiawa,

Ella Brewer (NZ),

Piri Cowie (NZ) - Kāi Tahu, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu,

Laura Donkers (UK),

David Downes (NZ),

Simon Kaan (NZ) - Kāi Tahu,

Warmun Art Centre (AUS), Courtesy Of Tim Melville Gallery, New Zealand

Joseph Michael (NZ),

Theresa Reihana (NZ) - Ngāti Hine,

Baye Pewhairangi Riddell (NZ) - Ngāti Porou,

Paula Rigby (NZ) - Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu Ki Te Wairoa, Ngāti Ruapani, Ngāi Tūhoe

Amardeep Shergill (AUS) – India,

Tiffany Singh (NZ),

Sheyne Tuffery (NZ) - Samoa,

Kanaka Maoli Artist – Lehuanani C. Waipā Ah Nee (USA) - Kanaka Maoli, Hawai'i,

Sheree Willman (NZ) - Ngāti Kahungunu, Rangitāne.

Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh - (NZ) - Samoan, Tuvaluan, English, Scottish, French - (Poet),

Rob Thorne (NZ) - Ngāti Tumutumu (Taonga Pūoro - Traditional Māori Instruments).

Website: [www.whenuaukaipo.nz](http://www.whenuaukaipo.nz)

# “Building Back Better”: A Sustainable, Resilient Economic Recovery after COVID-19

A webinar on Sustainable Development Goals as a strategic tool for conquering the socio-economic challenges in the ‘new normal’ that emerged with COVID-19

Wajirani Adhietty

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought huge challenges to the economies around the globe. Governments’ first priorities in handling the impacts of COVID-19 have been primarily to conquer this health emergency. Speedy economic recovery measures focusing on essential liquidity have also been implemented. The aim of which is to protect livelihoods. Governments have been creating economic stimulus measures to trigger the economic recovery to bring back ‘business as usual’. This is a very important transition as everyone understands the need to safeguard prosperity for the long term without just trying to get the economy quickly back on its feet quickly.

Everyone is looking for economic measures that can strengthen socio-economic resilience to sudden shocks from diseases such as COVID-19 or environmental degradation. It is no wonder everyone is expecting this transition to be a more people-centred recovery, a more socially resilient, an inclusive and supportive to preserve the quality of the natural environment. In this context, the Special Officer-Sustainable Economy and Innovation of the United Nations Association of New Zealand set up an online discussion forum on 18 May 2020.

The objective of the discussion was to explore how the 2030 Agenda and 17 SDGs can be used as a strategic framework to organise ‘Economic Recovery Measures’ to improve the economy, social wellbeing and environment health.

The discussion forum was made up of four speeches that focused on measures for intergenerational wellbeing. These measures included; building a material-efficient society and behavioural changes, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening resilience to the impacts of climate change, biodiversity protection and restoring ecosystems, fostering innovation and nature-based solutions, reinforcing principles of sustainable consumption and production, improving the resilience of global supply chains, and improving resource efficiency and increasing circularity in supply chains in to economic recovery plans.

Speakers explained how these areas are comprehensively organised in the SDG framework. The SDG framework provides guidance on developing policies to build strong economies that minimise causes of current crises. Additionally, speakers shared views on measures that could be thought of to improve regional economic cooperation that aimed at sustainable development but which ultimately support to improve socio-economic resilience of an economy.

The webinar was well-received by more than 100 participants. Given this success, we plan to continue the discussion under different approaches in the future. The PowerPoint slides and recording of the webinar are available on the UNA NZ website.

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

as a tool for the post COVID-19 economy

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Professor Girol Karacaoglu, Head of the School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington



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**Reshaping the Regional Integration, investments, and trading supporting the Sustainable Development**  
Dr Mia Mikic -Director, Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



**Getting Back Better: Protecting biodiversity and supporting climate action through economic stimulus**  
Dr Stefanos Fotiou, Director, Environment and Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

*Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi!*

*(With your basket and my basket, the people will thrive)*

# UNA NZ ACTIVITIES

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# Joint Project on UN Renewal

## Kennedy Graham

The UNA Association joined with the NZ Centre for Global Studies (NZCGS) in developing a discussion paper on Renewal of the United Nations. The intended title of the paper is: "Our Global Institutions must do better: A fresh vision from Aotearoa New Zealand".

The genesis of this work lay in a speech given by former NZ ambassador, Colin Keating, to UNA NZ at the UN Day event in October 2019, which included the following challenge:

*"The UN needs reform. New Zealand is ideally placed to be able to contribute hugely to a transformation. So, as a fourth challenge to you all, why not demand that New Zealand set up and properly resource a six-month project involving politicians from all parties, officials, the defence force and civil society to make recommendations on a role for New Zealand to take a lead in restoring the credibility and effectiveness of multilateralism."*

To initiate such a project, the respective boards of UNA NZ and NZCGS agreed to jointly sponsor a discussion paper to be developed by Mr Keating and myself, with a view to generating some interest in future New Zealand engagement in multilateralism in general, and renewal of the UN system more specifically.

This work commenced in February 2020 and, despite various restrictions caused by the global pandemic, has proceeded through the year, with the intent of finalising and releasing a discussion paper before the end of the year.

A questionnaire was initially compiled and sent to selected individuals within New Zealand, primarily former political leaders, former ambassadors, academic experts in law, governance and international relations, and leading members of civil society organizations. A first draft emerged in August 2020, and a number of seminars and discussions have been held between then and November.

The topic of 21<sup>st</sup> century multilateralism is proving to be a moving target whose velocity is driven by, among other things, the action (and inaction) on Covid-19, and whose tensile strength is tested by the opposing forces of collective globalism versus populist nationalism. Extensive redrafting has occurred in response to the views of the many individuals consulted. Unsurprisingly, a wide range of views have been received.

It is too early to advance our conclusions for the paper, as yet. But the paper is structured around 'ten hard questions' that we chose to ask before emerging with, hopefully, a series of practical and credible solutions. The questions were the following:

- Why is the UN system still relevant for New Zealand's national interests and New Zealand values?
- Is the multilateral system too powerful and undermining the proper exercise of state sovereignty?
- Conversely, is the UN system too weak and simply a toothless 'paper tiger'?
- What is the real problem that needs to be addressed?
- What are the global risks in the future; and should the system be reformed to allow us all collectively to better manage those risks?
- Given the current global political environment, how ambitious can we be; should there be only urgent short-term reform or should there also be a longer-term, more optimal, vision?
- What are the challenges to reform, and how might these be overcome?
- What goals and priorities should New Zealand have for a reformed system?
- What could a reformed system look like, and how do we get there?
- What can New Zealand do to help bring about change?

*It is our hope, as authors, and the intent of the two sponsoring bodies, that the discussion paper can generate a dialogue in early 2021, encouraging New Zealand to be proactive in the next few years in advancing a visionary yet credible series of initiatives for 'global reform in the global age'.*



# A Seat at the Table - New Zealand and the Security Council 2015-2016

Graham Hassall and Negar Partow  
Massey University Press

In 2013 and 2014 UNA NZ was closely observing the New Zealand government's bid for a two-year term on the United Nations Security Council. When we put to then Foreign Minister Murray McCully, in 2015, the suggestion that a book be written about New Zealand's term he was interested in the idea, but of course officials involved in the term became extremely busy and it was not possible to commence the project until 2017 - after the term's completion.

Although most MFAT staff were re-deployed away from UN-related portfolios from 2017, they were keen to record their experiences, and were as forthcoming as possible in their chapters without compromising any ongoing diplomatic relationships. During 2017 and 2018 we kept the UNA NZ National Council informed of the book's progress, which seemed slow at times. However, each of the authors persisted with their work, and the resulting chapters are disarmingly frank about every phase of the term – from campaign tactics, to strategizing on how to maximise impact on global security, and how to improve Security Council procedures.



## **A Seat at the Table**

New Zealand and the United Nations  
Security Council 2015–2016

*Edited by Graham Hassall and Negar Partow*



18 November 2018 at Rutherford House: L to R: Negar Partow, James Kember, Judge Gerard van Bohemen, Kennedy Graham (on screen), Nicholas Walbridge and Colin Keating.

We feel that UNA NZ will now forever be associated with assessment of New Zealand’s UN engagement during this 2015-2016 period, and hope that the Association will take similar initiatives in the future. In this way, we can make a genuine contribution to discourse on the current and future operation of the UN system, and on New Zealand’s participation within it. There are also many aspects of global security and UN reform that the book only examined in brief, which could become the basis of further investigation.



Graham Hassall updating UNA NZ National Council on the book project, 17 March 2019.

# An Update on the Work of the World Federation of United Nations Associations

Joy Dunsheath

WFUNA (World Federation of United Nations Associations) is the largest network of people supporting and engaging with the United Nations. The WFUNA 43<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Assembly will be held in Tbilisi from 17 – 21 November 2021 and hosted by UNA Georgia. After the successful 42<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Assembly in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (where I was elected to the WFUNA Executive Committee) we have

been exploring options and opportunities for this major WFUNA event to evolve to include a number of new features including becoming a global gathering of like-minded stakeholders, including civil societies, states and UN bodies. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Assembly will be a global gathering.

## ***WFUNA – Our Global Network***

### ***WFUNA – Global Citizens for a Stronger United Nations***

The *WFUNA Annual Showcase, 16 Plus Forum*, will be held in Porto Rica this year. The goal of this event is to provide a platform to showcase solutions, successes and challenges in advancing peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. It is committed to the 2030 Agenda, SDG 16 (Sustainable Development Goal 16). This goal is a component of an indivisible and integrated 2030 Agenda. See [www.wfuna.org/sixteenplusforum](http://www.wfuna.org/sixteenplusforum) The 16+ Forum is comprised of 12 Member States, the G7+ and WFUNA, as its Secretariat.

The WFUNA 224<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting was held on 15 December 2020 via video conference. As with so many virtual meetings from New York and Geneva, it required a late night from mid-night to 2.30am. Covid-19 has challenged the work undertaken by WFUNA, but I am pleased to report many successful highlights. You may view these on the WFUNA website: [www.wfuna.org](http://www.wfuna.org)

Involvement on all levels of local, national and global decision-making is essential in order to achieve the goals of the United Nations. The United Nations is a powerful force in meeting common global challenges and opportunities. This has been evident throughout the Covid-19 pandemic where the NZ Government has looked to the UN and WHO for advice and support.

# Volunteering - The Base of UNA NZ

Julia Cerqueira Melo

Did you know that except for one employee at the National Office in Wellington, The United Nations Association of New Zealand is made up only of committed volunteers across New Zealand? With that in mind, what does that mean for our organisation? I will try to answer these questions, sharing a little of my journey at UNA NZ.

As an immigrant, from a different culture and language, integrating myself into New Zealand was challenging. I tried different strategies (networking, meetups, courses) to make friends and to meet people. The most effective way, personally, was through volunteering.

*“Volunteer experiences gave me a sense of purpose and allowed me to not only help others but to help myself, to connect with others, to learn more and to feel part of something bigger than me. The sensation of belonging through volunteering was huge.”*

When I joined UNA NZ in 2019, I was still relatively new to the country, and being able to join such an organisation and to contribute to its improvement has had deep meaning for me. The Wellington Branch welcomed me with open arms, trusted me to lead them and gave me invaluable support while I was there. That's what a volunteer-based organisation should aim, to always be open to new people, to be respectful and to trust that they are there to give their best for the organisation.

While part of UNA NZ, I had the opportunity to meet remarkable people, who shared amazing life and work experiences and were always willing to support and give advice. I learned more about the United Nations, the Sustainable Development Goals and New Zealand and its people. I developed new skills and improved old ones. I understood my boundaries in regard to time commitments and relationship management. All of this is to say that my experience of UNA NZ was life-changing, and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of it.

Returning to the question, what does it mean to UNA NZ that almost everybody in the organisation is a volunteer? It means that we are a welcoming space, seeking new members and volunteers to spread the word of the UN and its goals and that we are grateful for every single minute someone donates to our cause. Without volunteers and their willingness to be part of us, UNA NZ wouldn't be where we are. If you are a member, thank you for being here and helping us. If you aren't, I hope my experience will convince you to join us.

If you would like to join UNA NZ, please visit our website and become a member. Volunteer experiences can change your life, give you a sense of purpose and belonging, and create meaningful connections with others.

# UNA NZ Manawatu

## Monique Corson

A small group of young tertiary students based in Palmerston North who were connected through work, study, and other UNA NZ activities, wanted to build on our study and action something humanitarian in our region. Given previous involvements with UNA NZ through overseas tours, and the wealth of contacts some of us had, we were steered towards creating a local UNA NZ branch. There was no combining focus or set problem to solve - just the mission of bringing people together to do good in our region.

After a small ruminating period, our existence - or our intention to exist - was announced to the world at the Palmerston North UN Sustainable Development Goals Celebration held at Te Manawa (Palmerston North's local Museum). Monique Corson was introduced as incumbent president or leader of the branch, and many people attending that night said they would be "very interested in joining once we were up and running". This event was well attended by Massey University faculty, Palmerston North City Council members, public servants, interested local business people, and a small handful of tertiary students.

From there, the work began. Branch President, Monique attended the UNA NZ National Council meeting in November, where our branch was officiated. We have since busied ourselves with setting up an online (largely social media based) presence, which our Vice-President, Olivia has been managing, as well as setting up the bank account to support the branch. This was perhaps the largest challenge, as our new treasurer encountered 'varying degrees of resistance' over a series of weeks when attempting to set this account up. As of now we are in the final stage of having this approved.

Perhaps the largest challenge though - that we are yet to solve within the Manawatu branch - is our overarching purpose. What are we trying to achieve here, in this region? We are certain that we want to help further the 17 SDGs, but we are unsure as to specifically how. We would like to raise awareness, fan out, and grow our organisation within the Manawatu - but for what cause? People and awareness are means, but we are yet to decide on our ends. We are excited to join other community initiatives, such as environmental volunteering, but as far as initiatives of our own go - in a concrete, planned, sense - we are not sure. There is certainly more brainstorming, wider community outreach and decision making to be done in this space.

In summary, we are a relatively young, relatively small branch full of business students, arts students and graduates. We are looking to focus our branch's attention on activities that further the SDGs. We are very interested in expanding our organisation and listening to potential new members and what direction they think the branch should take.



# UNA NZ RESEARCH ARTICLES

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# Climate Related Threats to Human Rights in the Pacific.

*This 2020 – 2021 UNA NZ research project is led by Dr Ivan Chirino-Valle, Joy Dunsheath, Dr Barbara Bedeschi – Lewando, and Leif Monnett.*

## *Developing a Human Rights Framework for New Zealand's Pacific Islands Climate Change Policies: A Preliminary Exploration of Gaps and Recommendations to Better Support Human Rights*

New Zealand (NZ) has historically supported human rights protections on the international stage, and has committed to combating climate change. Prime Minister Ardern highlighted these issues in her 2018 UN General Assembly speech. She noted that Pacific Island leaders identified climate change as the single largest threat to security in the region.

Climate change and human rights are inextricably linked. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights summarizes that:

***“[C]limate change threatens the enjoyment of all human rights, including the rights to health, water, food, housing, self-determination, and life itself.”***

There is growing evidence that climate change poses profound threats to many human rights in the Pacific Islands. Many of these threats, if not mitigated, will increase in the future. Additional effort is urgently needed to identify and prioritise human rights threatened by climate change throughout the Pacific Islands, to identify the specific factors driving these threats, and to take action to achieve lasting protection of the threatened rights.

We undertook an exploratory study aimed at: making a preliminary, broad evaluation of the extent to which NZ's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (MFAT) current climate change actions in the Pacific Islands are focused on protecting and promoting human rights threatened by current and future effects of climate change, and sparking dialogue on changes that could improve the efficacy of MFAT's policies and actions to protect and promote such rights.

We summarized information related to climate change threats to human rights in the Pacific Islands; highlighted several human rights seriously threatened by climate change in the Pacific Islands; discussed the concept of human rights and NZ's international human rights commitments; examined MFAT's previous attempts to mainstream human rights protections into its development aid policies and practices; and evaluated the current state of MFAT internal policy, processes, and actions relevant to identifying, prioritising, and taking actions to protect and promote human rights in this region in its climate change actions. We reviewed relevant publicly available grey and primary literature, informally submitted three sets of specific questions about MFAT's climate change aid process to relevant MFAT staff, and followed up via informal discussion.

Our main conclusions are that NZ is taking actions to mitigate climate change impacts in the Pacific Islands and is taking some action to support human rights in the region. However, NZ's articulation of human rights in most of the documents discussing its climate change actions in the Pacific Islands is narrow. It is unclear that the effects of its actions on human rights are fully considered. The rationale underlying some of the human rights priorities, in areas in which climate change is the greatest threat, are unclear. The basis for MFAT's conclusions about likely and actual impacts of its climate change actions on human rights should be strengthened and made more transparent. There appears to be inadequate attention paid to identifying, assessing, mitigating, and monitoring many of the human rights that are seriously threatened by climate change in the Pacific Islands, especially over the long term. Many of NZ's climate change mitigation activities will have human rights benefits.

However, the lack of fit between its articulated human rights priorities and the greatest threat to human rights in the region may lower the efficacy of climate change mitigations to protect and promote such rights, which we argue should be the primary objective of such actions.

Our key recommendation is that NZ consider taking a very direct, highly integrated, evidence-based approach to achieving its goals on both climate change and human rights by *deliberately and explicitly focusing the objectives of its climate change mitigation policies and activities in the Pacific Islands on the protection and fulfilment of human rights foreseeably threatened by climate change*. In order to do so, we recommend that *New Zealand immediately begin a dialogue with its Pacific Island partners, the international human rights community, and other interested parties to consider the development of a human rights framework to inform its Pacific Islands climate change policies and action*. This could help realize and marry NZ's stated objectives regarding climate change and human rights and MFAT's stated goal to influence "international climate change rules, norms and implementation guidelines."

Within this framework, NZ should: strengthen underlying processes for predicting, assessing, monitoring, and mitigating climate change related threats to human rights in the Pacific Islands; and assessing and monitoring the status of those human rights. It should work with Pacific Islanders to identify and implement policies and actions to protect and promote human rights threatened by climate change over both the short and long term. It should work urgently towards avoiding high impact effects that potentially present high risk to human rights, and develop policies and actions to protect human rights if these high impacts are realized.

# The Ban Treaty, Biden and New Zealand: Making the Most of New Opportunities for Nuclear Disarmament.

Alyn Ware

January 2021 was a big month for nuclear weapons risks, arms control, and disarmament.

On January 8, the Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi [contacted the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff](#) urging him to take measures to prevent an increasingly unstable outgoing President Trump from launching a nuclear attack in his final days in office.

On 20 January 2021, most of the world breathed a sigh of relief as the US '[nuclear footballs](#)' (the two briefcases with nuclear weapons codes and communication links for the President or Vice-President to launch a nuclear attack) were transferred from Mr Trump and Mr Pence to President Biden and Vice-President Harris, as they were inaugurated. On the same day, as one of his first acts as President, Biden [announced that the USA would re-join the Paris Climate Agreement](#).

Then on 21 January 2021, the day after inauguration, US President Biden [announced his administration's intention to renew the new START agreement](#). He [sealed the deal](#) with Russian President Putin a few days later.

On 22 January 2021, the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#) (TPNW) entered into force, following ratification of the treaty by 50 countries. The treaty makes it illegal for states parties to produce, acquire, deploy, test, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.

Despite these development, on 27 January 2021, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists announced that the [Doomsday Clock](#) would remain at 100 seconds to Midnight, indicating the extremely high risk to humanity from nuclear weapons and climate change, and the importance to focus political attention on these issues.

Two key questions to ask with regard to the nuclear weapons issue are:

*In light of the TPNW entry-into force, the new US administration and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in August this year, what progress might be possible for global nuclear risk reduction and disarmament?*

and What role can New Zealand play?

## Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – time to export NZ's nuclear-weapon-free policy

The treaty has been ratified by 52 non-nuclear States. None of the nuclear armed States have signed, nor any of the allied states under extended nuclear deterrence relationships (NATO countries, Japan, South Korea and Australia). Apart from Australia, it is very unlikely that any of these countries will change their minds and join the TPNW.

When New Zealand prohibited nuclear weapons through the [Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act of 1987](#), we were suspended from the ANZUS alliance. The fact that the TPNW negotiators rejected proposals by the Netherlands that would have made it possible for allied states to join the treaty without being suspended from their security alliances, has virtually ruled out the possibility of these states joining the treaty. For the nuclear armed states, joining the TPNW would require them to unilaterally eliminate their nuclear weapons while nuclear armed states remaining outside the treaty would be free to continue to produce, deploy and threaten to use nuclear weapons. None of the nuclear-armed States are willing to do this.

Despite these shortcomings, the TPNW opens up possibilities for the States Parties to adopt implementation measures that could have a significant impact on the nuclear arms race, including the policies and practices of the nuclear armed states.

One of these is on transit. Nuclear-armed States transport and/or deploy their nuclear weapons through the airspace, territorial waters and exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of many of the TPNW states. Some TPNW states even allow landing of military aircraft that might carry nuclear weapons.

If these States Parties can be encouraged to fully implement the treaty by prohibiting the transit of nuclear weapons, this would have a very significant political, operational and legal impact on the nuclear-armed States.

New Zealand can play a key role in encouraging and supporting other States Parties of the TPNW to do this, as we have already banned nuclear weapons transit in our 1987 legislation (although this ban has not yet been extended to include the EEZ).

Another key measure that could impact on the nuclear arms race is ending public investments in the nuclear weapons industry. Many of the states which have joined the TPNW maintain government-managed funds such as sovereign wealth funds, public employee pension funds, national pension funds and public trust funds which invest in the stock market, including in corporations involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons and/or their dedicated delivery systems. A global nuclear weapons divestment campaign, led by States Parties to the TPNW, could reverse the financial incentives for the nuclear arms race and give powerful support to political actors (legislators, financial institutions, civil society) in the nuclear-armed States who are trying to prevent new nuclear weapons programs, reign in the nuclear weapons budgets, and shift these budgets to public health, climate protection and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

New Zealand has already ended investments of public funds (ACC fund, Superannuation fund and other public trust funds) and our national bank (Kiwi bank) from the nuclear weapons industry with no negative impact on investment performance. We could encourage other States Parties to the TPNW to follow suit. Civil society is already promoting this through the international [Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign](#).

## RESEARCH ARTICLES

There are other aspects of New Zealand's 1987 legislation that could also be adopted by States Parties to the TPNW, including establishment of a ministerial position on disarmament and a public advisory committee to advise the government on nuclear disarmament measures and to administer public funds supporting disarmament education. These initiatives have contributed to New Zealand playing a pro-active role on nuclear disarmament including at the United Nations and NPT Review Conferences.

When the 1987 legislation was adopted, Prime Minister Lange noted that it was a policy to ban nuclear weapons nationally, but that this policy was not for export. With the entry-into-force of the TPNW, now is the time to proudly export this policy.

## Biden, nuclear policy and the NPT

New Zealand has joined the [Stockholm Initiative](#), a coalition of 16 countries that are focused on the nuclear disarmament obligation of States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the [5-yearly review conference of which](#) is planned for August 2021. The success or failure of the NPT review conferences relies a lot on the US, but also on the role played by middle power countries such as New Zealand. The 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences, which were held during US Democratic Presidencies, were very successful in achieving commitments by the nuclear-armed States on nuclear-risk reduction and disarmament.

New Zealand played a key role in 2000 by chairing the NPT subcommittee that negotiated the agreed [13 practical nuclear disarmament steps](#). Austria, Ireland and Switzerland played critical roles in the 2010 outcome by facilitating the agreements on disarmament (Austria), a middle east nuclear weapon free zone (Ireland) and the application of international humanitarian law (Switzerland).

With a Biden administration that appears<sup>38</sup> committed to real progress on nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament, but with serious conflicts between the nuclear-armed States, the Stockholm Initiative could play a vital bridging role at the 2021 NPT Review Conference to facilitate agreement on significant measures. These could include building agreement:

- that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought (the Regan-Gorbachev dictum);
- to adopt no-first-use policies;
- to relinquish 'launch-on-warning' and take all nuclear weapons systems off high-alert;
- to end all nuclear weapons modernisation and to further reduce nuclear stockpiles and
- to commit to the global, verified elimination of nuclear weapons by 2045, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations;

Parliamentary and civil society support for these initiatives prior to the NPT Review conference will be necessary. Such support is being built in parliaments primarily by [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament](#) (PNND), and in civil society by [Abolition 2000](#), [Global Zero](#), [Beyond the Bomb](#) and [UNFOLD ZERO](#), including through the global civil society appeal [Protect People and the Planet: A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#).

Such action should be seen as complementary to action to advance the TPNW, as promoted by [ICAN](#), Abolition 2000 and others, which will continue in parallel to the NPT Review conference, including at the first conference of States Parties to the TPNW which will be hosted by Austria (dates not yet finalised).

# The Question of the Te Ao Māori Worldview and the SDGs

Pedram Pirnia

Five years on from the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides a good occasion to evaluate Aotearoa New Zealand's progress towards achieving them. On this occasion, I will discuss and highlight the lack of integration of indigenous worldviews into the SDGs framework with a focus on Te Ao Māori, as well as various dashboard indicators formulated to measure 'wellbeing' and the impact of development progress in the context of the SDGs.

New Zealand formulated the world's first 'Wellbeing' Budget in 2019 and it is wonderful to see New Zealand leading the world in this space with a shift towards a 'wellbeing' economy. There is a strong desire across different sectors towards a more holistic approach for measuring success. Many progressive governments around the world are currently reflecting on how to follow New Zealand and move away from a simple focus on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a tool for measuring success.

There seems to be a common agreement across borders that the GDP is no longer a viable tool that can properly measure development. This is an evolution in thinking. On this new stage of social development, progressive countries have realised that it is no longer viable to primarily focus on measuring material production, expenditure and that focus should be shifted towards

understanding, cultivating and measuring the different aspects of 'wellbeing'.

Focus on the GDP has helped us break down the contribution of each industry or sector of the economy and the ratio of GDP to the total population. However, the world has changed rapidly in this space over the last two decades and development impact measurement tools are slowly shifting the emphasis from a simple focus on GDP and monetary measurements to include other dimensions of 'wellbeing' such as natural, cultural and social aspects as well as mental and spiritual, especially in the context of the Pacific Islands.

## Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda

There are approximately 370 million people who identify themselves as indigenous globally. This makes up less than 5% of the world's total population. There is much that we can learn from this small portion of the world's population about forms of governance, sustainability, and 'wellbeing' in it is different political, social and environmental dimensions on which we all depend.

Unfortunately, the standpoint of indigenous peoples including Te Ao Māori worldview on 'wellbeing' and 'development' has been overlooked and even denied to the detriment of the social, political, and the environmental systems on which we all depend. Thanks to a global awakening of indigenous peoples, these issues are being highlighted and addressed, but the change is slow.

Indigenous peoples around the world, including Māori in New Zealand, do not see their perspectives accurately reflected in the SDGs. Although all the 17 goals are relevant for indigenous peoples, only 4 out of 231<sup>1</sup> indicators specifically mention indigenous peoples and appropriate consultation with indigenous stakeholders has not been conducted yet. This means that indigenous worldviews on sustainability are not understood or appropriately translated into policy or incorporated into the Agenda 2030.

This has resulted in a lack of ownership of the SDGs by the indigenous peoples around the world including Māori in New Zealand. There are four indicators for measurement of the SDGs in which indigenous peoples are included, but these four indicators do not reflect indigenous definitions of 'wellbeing'. This is a challenge and a major shortcoming which both the Treasury and Statistics NZ have very openly and frankly highlighted in their reports.

Indigenous peoples around the world, have elucidated that 'leaving no one behind' means respecting subsistence economies but also expanding the concept to include nonmonetary measures of 'wellbeing'. For Māori, for example, the Poutokomanawa are fundamental for achieving 'wellbeing' as well as Te Ira Tangata, but these and other important worldviews are not included in any of the existing frameworks as clearly as they should be which is why the linear monetary measures of poverty eradication simply continue to contribute to impoverishing indigenous peoples even further.

The *Indigenous Peoples Major Group* is one of the nine sectors that were initially involved in the processes at the UN level when formulating the SDGs, but the consultations were not as thorough and genuine as they should be. More time was needed but there was no time and the deadlines were looming. The deadlines soon approached and the SDGs had to be formulated.

Given what happened in 2015, it is only fair to interlink and weave the SDGs with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. This means genuine and lasting partnerships and consultations with indigenous groups around the world and with hapu and iwi here in New Zealand. Keeping in mind that the SDGs are intended to be achieved by the year 2030 and no one is to be left behind, especially the indigenous population of the world.

The challenge for us here in Aotearoa, New Zealand is to better understand *Te Ao Māori* worldviews and to translate the *Te Ao* worldview into policy and practice. Māori in New Zealand and other indigenous populations around the world are not victims or passive actors. They are in fact able and keen to identify their own sustainable development goals and contribute to achieving the SDGs. This, however, has to be achieved in accordance to tikanga Māori and 'cultural values' based on the traditional Māori belief and knowledge system which is the foundation from which Māori seek to understand and comprehend their world, ethics, behaviour and protocols.

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<sup>1</sup> It is important however to note that the total number of Indicators identified and listed in the Global Indicator Framework is 247. However,

more than a dozen indicators are repeated under three or more different targets so they are counted only once.

Indigenous peoples around the world, and Māori in particular here in New Zealand, should be appropriately engaged and given the opportunity to lead and take ownership of the SDGs. They should be informed and involved from the start in research, planning, policy and decision making, to the end. Māori must be given the opportunity to determine which SDGs should be focused on for hapu and iwi, as well as the how it is achieved.

Ultimately, indigenous peoples around the world and Māori here in New Zealand should be encouraged to adopt systems approaches and frameworks to increase participation and inclusion in decision-making and to achieve multi-dimensional aspirational goals and desired homegrown outcomes that go beyond a simple focus on GDP towards a new set of objectives to achieve 'wellbeing'.

### Existing 'Wellbeing' Frameworks in New Zealand

The 'wellbeing' policy in Aotearoa New Zealand seems to rest on two main frameworks: A conceptual framework that is the Treasury's [Living Standards Framework](#) (2011) and a robust set of indicators produced in large part by Statistics New Zealand (2018) as part of its *Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand* project.<sup>2</sup> These, along with the government's science advisers, provided an evidence-based foundation for the first '[Wellbeing Budget](#)', delivered on 30 May 2019. This focused government investment on areas where the greatest benefits could be achieved. There is no one way to measure 'wellbeing', and Treasury is exploring the meaning of the concept of 'wellbeing' further

with the support of other government departments.

The Treasury's attempt to develop a Living Standards Framework (LSF) represents an important point in Aotearoa New Zealand public policy discourse. The LSF is important because it introduced a wide set of measures that consider the collective impact of policies on inter-generational 'wellbeing' and presents an opportunity for Aotearoa New Zealand to pursue 'wellbeing' as a framework for measuring impact. The challenge in the process from the start, however, has been to ensure accurate incorporation of Te Ao Māori worldview on 'wellbeing' into the Framework.

A radical shift in the conversation about 'wellbeing' is thus needed if we are truly to achieve inter-generational wellbeing for all New Zealanders including Māori. Unfortunately, Māori perspectives on 'wellbeing' are not yet clearly identified or finalized yet and they are not accurately incorporated into any of the existing frameworks, similar to that of other indigenous populations across the globe. This highlights the significant disparity and inequitable access to the tools, resources and opportunities that form the foundation of 'wellbeing'.

There are currently wide discussions on the topic of 'wellbeing' and how it can be measured here in New Zealand and around the world. This is largely a reflection of just how difficult it can be to turn 'wellbeing' measures into information that policymakers can use. Not to mention the even more

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<sup>2</sup> The wellbeing approach was used to develop [the first Wellbeing Budget](#). It made greater use of Ministerial subgroups than in previous budgets with Ministers working closely together to develop

packages. This included packages tackling domestic violence and making land use more sustainable.

difficult task of achieving consensus on exactly how 'wellbeing' can be defined and how it is related to the SDGs.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, the variety of available conceptual lenses, theoretical frameworks, and value judgements that can affect how data is gathered, analysed and transformed into information makes the task even more complex.

### Why Should Impact Be Measured?

Annually millions of dollars are spent on development but we do not adequately know or effectively capture the outcomes and the impact of dollars spent. Outputs are measured across the government with the support of different frameworks, but there is ample room to better measure the impact of funds allocated to development. Ideally, we will eventually also be able to shape a clearer picture as to how every dollar spent contributes to timely achievement of the SDGs.

Formulating a methodology to measure development impact in the context of the SDGs in New Zealand has taken longer than expected. However, work is in progress and different government departments are coming together to sharpen and improve existing dashboards for measurement of 'wellbeing' which will ultimately support the government's efforts to achieve the SDGs.

The New Zealand government has been successful in improving data collection to better capture development results. However, the ultimate challenge lies in truly committing to a sustainable, accountable and transformational change that would invest

energy, time and resources into developing a robust and inclusive methodology to work with the target communities most in need. This includes hapu and iwi to better ensure both qualitative and quantitative measurement of development impact and benefits towards achieving the SDGs.

### How Should Sustainable Development 'Impact' Be Measured?

Aotearoa New Zealand is renowned for drafting one of the world's first comprehensive welfare state guidelines with the passing of [the Social Security Act, 1938](#). Today, New Zealanders have another opportunity to lead the world by redefining what 'wellbeing' means and how it is measured given the need to shift from a 'welfare state' to a 'wellbeing state'.

This sounds like an ideal, but it is possible. It is accepted that in this move towards the 'wellbeing' state, stakeholders can consider cultivating ownership of change by the people and better concentrate on community strengths and activities that add value in ways that citizens identify themselves.

The LSF (2011) is a first attempt at creating a framework for measuring and analysing the dynamics of 'wellbeing' in New Zealand. The LSF is not perfect but it is the first in its kind, an excellent achievement and a good start for qualitative and quantitative measurements of success. The second attempt was in 2019. Statistics New Zealand's Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand (IANZ), goes even further and beyond traditional economic measures such as income and GDP. What makes the IANZ standout is the approach and how it includes

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<sup>3</sup> Focusing exclusively on GDP and economic gain to measure development [ignores the negative effects of economic growth](#) on society, such as climate change and income inequality. It's time to

acknowledge the limitations of GDP and expand our measure development so that it takes into account a society's quality of life.

'wellbeing' for the first time in a national budget and takes into account the SDGs.

The IANZ is regarded as a backup measurement tool for the LSF and it is aligned with the SDGs although not entirely because it has only 100 indicators but technically, it is the one and only tool we have in New Zealand to monitor and report against the SDGs.

Aiming to go beyond the GDP and focus on measurement of goods and services produced, the Treasury identified four new domains: *natural, human, social, and 'financial and physical'* which are identified as [the four domains of wellbeing](#) (see diagram).

This framework measures goods and services, skills, knowledge, physical and mental health, our natural environment, social connections, communities, institutions, and the buildings, machines and other physical assets that support material living conditions.

What is interesting to note and useful, is that LSF links can be drawn between the LSF current domains of 'wellbeing' and future capital stocks and the SDGs. These outlines a series of interconnected development goals that are people-centered, and encompass a wide variety of issues affecting the wellbeing of our community, planet and all of humanity. The [LSF includes a dashboard](#) – a structured database of indicators to support policy and community development to lift intergenerational wellbeing.<sup>4</sup>

The Treasury's four domains of 'wellbeing' (2011) is a tool for financial and economic analysis and supports the Whole of Government strategy to capture and measure

development impact, but it is not clear how this framework incorporates 'wellbeing' from a *Te Ao Māori* perspective.



### Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand

Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand (IANZ) is a second set of comprehensive suites of approximately 100 social, cultural, environmental and economic indicators that have been inspired and formulated methodologically to reflect the SDGs. They help us monitor progress around our social, economic, and environmental wellbeing.

These indicators are also still being sharpened to advance measurement of development impact and to ensure more accuracy and applicability of the indicators with respect to the SDGs from a *Te Ao Māori* standpoint. Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand are a result of extensive research and are proposed based on international best practice, but unfortunately IANZ also does not accurately include concepts of 'wellbeing' from a *Te Ao Māori* perspective. IANZ does, however, contribute to attempts to measure success in other ways than simply economic impact and to find a way to define 'wellbeing' in a way that would make sense to everyone and formulate Indicators that would allow us to measure our progress both qualitatively and quantitatively. This is not an easy task.

<sup>4</sup> Treasury. (n.d.). "Measuring Wellbeing: the LSF dashboard". Treasury.

## How the SDGs relate to the Treasury’s Living Standards Framework (LSF)

The LSF is a framework for thinking about ‘wellbeing’. It does not offer a map or a guideline as to how ‘wellbeing’ or ‘sustainability’ should be cultivated. It assumes that achievement of the targets will bring about lasting positive change and therefore ensures ‘wellbeing’ of all without leaving anyone behind.

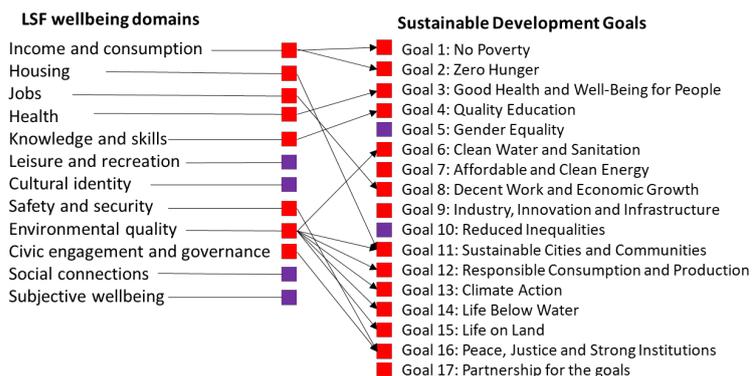
Most of the LSF indicators do relate to an SDG goal, but as a few domains do not, there is some sense in which the LSF takes a more New Zealand-specific approach. Out of both the LSF and the SDGs falls a measurement framework which is now being reexamined again by different government departments to formulate an additional framework for each department to measure impact and facilitate analysis of policy and impact.

In the ‘LSF wellbeing domains to SDG diagram we can see how [the Treasury views the overlap between the LSF and SDGs](#) and a brief analysis reveals substantial overlap.<sup>5</sup>

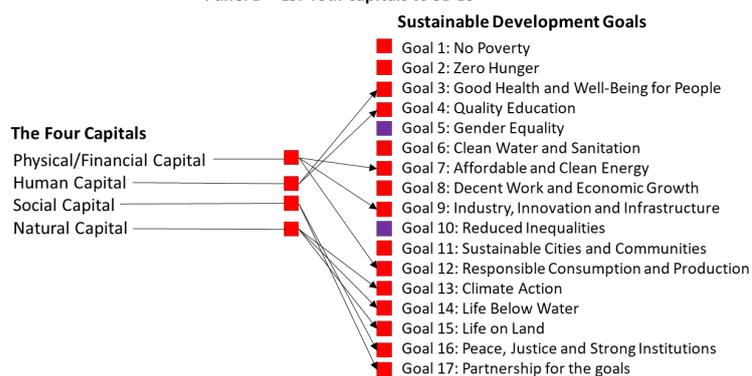
### The Question of Data

Gathering relevant and appropriate data is critical in making progress towards achieving the SDGs. Stats NZ play an equally important role in the process. This is why it is imperative for stakeholders to gather relevant data, share information and collaborate very closely with this department. Standards for trusted data must be improved if we are to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Data gathering methods and indicators must be reconsidered and aligned. These include data security and data protection for secure information sharing

Panel A – LSF wellbeing domains to SDGs



Panel B – LSF four capitals to SDGs



Panel C – Measurement and reporting



■ Indicates domain or SDG does not map to a specific domain, SDG, capital

This suite of indicators, although lacking a Māori perspective, were developed through broad consultations. They included input from subject matter experts across many sectors, including government, non-government organisations, academia, business, and international wellbeing experts.

In reaction to Covid-19, Stats NZ has created a more inclusive Dashboard Coordination Working Group with the objective of coordinating the Whole of Government efforts to formulate a set of new indicators to measure development impact with respect to given timeframes for achieving the SDGs.

<sup>5</sup> Ormsby, J. (2018) *The Relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Living Standards Framework* (DP 18/06). The Treasury.

which can eventually lead to increased accessibility to data through openness to data sources and transparency making sure that data is gathered and that it is trusted.

Gathering and accurately measuring progress towards achieving the SDGs is critical and needs to meet criteria of quality, professionalism, impartiality, privacy protection, security and openness. A critical ingredient for success in this process is dialogue between the scientific community, civil society and private sector. Partnerships between these stakeholders should be strengthened if the SDGs are to be achieved on time. This means strengthened whole-of-government strategies and accountable partnerships with stakeholders to capture impact. Data will only be useful if it is trusted and shared among all stakeholders. A major challenge for data collection is the different definitions and distributions of subjective 'wellbeing' assembled at each level of aggregation: hapu, iwi, diverse community groups in different cities and regions of New Zealand.

The most important set of data missing is Māori-specific data, definitions and metrics of 'wellbeing' and what 'wellbeing' actually means in the context of *Te Ao Māori*. This lack of inclusion, clarity and understanding of indigenous worldviews has resulted in the formation of a data-gap in partnerships between indigenous groups and government in New Zealand and elsewhere in the world.

Work to address this issue is currently in progress and Tūhono has [gathered and published some very interesting findings](#), but this work is in progress.<sup>6</sup> Ideally, various

definitions and indicators of 'wellbeing' are identified, compared, analysed and combined to produce one framework with a simple set of indicators. It should be simple enough to capture all development activity while being meticulous enough to measure all development impact. Once the indicators have been identified, we can then better classify 'targets' keeping in mind that 'wellbeing' is essentially culturally sensitive and depends on demography and geography.

It is important to acknowledge that analysing gathered data can be difficult as there is a limit to sample sizes and communities are diverse. This means that different development actors and stakeholders will eventually have no choice but to break down the available data into finer and more accurate localised level, measuring the impact of the subpopulations which will most certainly reduce the accuracy of data gathering towards achieving the SDGs.

The data gathering challenge is further inflamed with the additional constraint of the available data being held by different stakeholders, local councils and agencies in different regions. As we get closer to 2030, we need to reflect on the question of 'time', making sure that the relevant data gathered in a timely manner. This means careful gathering of data and development processes for each year. All of which can be very challenging as the 2030 deadline gets closer. Measuring 'impact' permits improved strategy based on analysis, but it is a challenge at the Government level, within civil society and especially in the private sector to ensure that the gathering of data is trusted, accountable

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<sup>6</sup> The Tūhono Trust (formerly known as the Tautoko Māori Trust) was established in December 2003 to have a Kaitaki or guardianship

role for Tūhono. The nine-iwi collective appointed Tūhono Trustees in nine respective regions.

and the application of the data analysis to development strategies is inclusive and sustainable.

### Issues for Consideration

The key to achieving the SDGs is a Whole of Government approach while cultivating community ownership, accountability and authentic and lasting partnerships. This requires collaboration of various stakeholders especially the private sector and the civil society through an inclusive and participatory approach. Executing sustainable development is a demanding and long-term process that demands an inclusive enabling environment, where diverse communities including iwi and hapu are engaged, informed and solutions-identified are localised and strength-based.

Stats NZ and the Treasury, as discussed in this article, have formulated a set of indicators to warrant qualitative and quantitative measurement of the impact of development in accordance with 'wellbeing'. While Māori are included in the New Zealand voluntary report to the United Nations on the SDGs, the indicators adopted to measure 'wellbeing' in these frameworks are questionable and do not embody 'wellbeing' from a Te Ao Māori worldview.

It has been five years since the SDGs were adopted, yet diverse indigenous peoples around the world and Māori in New Zealand tend to underperform across many of the SDGs standard metrics. Some governments around the world including New Zealand's government are facilitating resources nationally to address these shortcomings. However, what is obviously lacking is ownership of the process by local communities, iwi and hapu and especially understanding of what 'wellbeing' means in

Te Ao Māori and other indigenous worldviews.

Partnerships across sectors are improving but there is room for these partnerships to be strengthened and engagements to be more accountable and strategic. Civil society, academia and the private sector are well-placed to support stakeholder efforts and to engage New Zealanders on the 2030 Agenda.

At the UNA NZ we recognise the positive efforts being undertaken by all development actors here in New Zealand and around the world towards achieving the SDGs. We acknowledge the need for cultivating local ownership and accountability systems that are more robust as well as our responsibility to play a key role in the process. It is our collective aim that Aotearoa New Zealand is seen as a global, accountable and responsible leader in the global journey of achieving the objectives of the Agenda 2030. As such, we are deeply committed to the education of New Zealanders around the SDGs, multi-stakeholder partnerships and we have a clear mandate to increase the support needed to the New Zealand government, civil society, private sector and every citizen in Aotearoa to help create a safer, fairer and more inclusive and sustainable world where no one is left behind.

# Public Perceptions of the United Nations

Mina Mirzakhani-Moghaddam

## Introduction

In spite of all its effort to promote social justice and equality in the world, the United Nations (UN) faces a lot of challenges and obstacles along the way and subsequently have received contradictive feedback from the public about some of their actions. Gardiner (2007) refers to a 2006 poll conducted in the United States about the UN in which 64 percent of participants expressed their opinion that the UN is 'doing a poor job'. In contrast, only 28 percent of the respondents expressed having a positive image of how the UNs work. Additionally, a bigger number of respondents supported the idea of the UN playing a major role in world affairs, instead of playing a leading role.

The link between the United States and the UN is also a matter that has been much discussed, as well as raised conflicting opinions about the UN's neutral standpoint in world issues. The United States is the world's biggest funder of the UN, which has caused the perspective that the UN is somehow under the control of the United States, and therefore not universal and independent (Gardiner 2007, Okeke & Nnubia 2016, Browne 2008.)

As it is apparent from the foregoing, the reputation of the UN has been questioned over the years. Therefore, as part of my internship with UNA NZ I produced a questionnaire in order to find out what the perception of the United Nations is now among people around the world. The questionnaire was sent out in 2020 to different countries via social media and email. It received respondents from a diverse number of countries around the world including; Tanzania, Malaysia, Guinea, Angola, Yemen, Bahrain, Sweden, Vietnam, Philippines, Finland, Myanmar, Nigeria, USA, Germany, the Netherlands, Indonesia, New Zealand, India, Suriname, Italy, Greece, France, China, Syria, Iraq, Mexico, Singapore, Spain, Guatemala, Norway and Turkey. Altogether the questionnaire received 130 respondents.

## Findings

89 percent of the respondents expressed that they are aware of what the UN does, and 49 percent follow UN news. Having said that, 76 percent expressed that they think the UN is playing a significant role in world affairs, however, 60 percent think that UN is impotent in dealing with important world issues. Furthermore, over half of the respondents think that the UN is making a positive impact in promoting equality and reducing poverty, but only 50 percent of the respondents think that UN is positively impacting the reduction of climate change. When asked about the success of promoting human rights globally, 55 percent of the respondents chose to answer 'yes', and 22 percent chose to answer 'no'.

Additionally, it was asked whether the UN is upholding their own values in their actions and 43 percent answered 'yes' and 16 percent said 'no', whereas 37 percent said that they do not know. Moreover, 38 percent of the respondents think that the UN is taking the public's opinions into consideration in terms of their decision making, but 26 percent do not think so, and 30 percent answered 'I don't know'. The respondents were also asked whether they think that only specific countries/country are prioritized when it comes to influencing UN decision-making with 54 percent answering 'yes'. In answering this question, respondents were given an option to write down which country or countries they think influence the most. This option was answered by 106 respondents and the most of the responses was 'USA' with 77 respondents and next was 'China' with 25 responses. 15 respondents answered 'Russia'. Other answers were rich countries, European countries, or all countries with veto power.

Furthermore, based on the survey, only 60 percent know what the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are, and 40 percent answered that they are not familiar with the SDGs. However, 59 percent think that the UN is taking necessary steps towards the SDGs. When asked about the security council and VETO system, nearly half of the respondents were not familiar with these concepts. Moreover, given that this questionnaire was made during Covid-19, it was asked whether the UN played an important role during the pandemic and 54 percent answered 'yes', whereas 30 percent said 'no'.

## Conclusion

As can be seen from the statistics, many of the respondents know about the UN and what it does. It is apparent that many think that the UN is an important world body and that it has significant goals. However, people seem to lack trust in the UN's achievement of its goals, as well as a trust in the UN's ability to equally involve different countries in its decision making. In addition, it became apparent that most of the respondents think that the USA has the biggest influence in the UN's decision making process.

# Fostering Sustainable Economy Transition: The role of Legislation

Wajirani Adhietty  
Emeline Chastang

***“Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites.”***  
***-William Ruckelshaus***

This was one prominent ‘call for caution’ in recent history implying an imperative to shift towards a ‘sustainable form of economic growth’, taking into account the new challenges facing today’s world.<sup>7</sup> Decades after the world began debating unsustainable patterns of economic growth this saying is still valid.<sup>8</sup> Today it has been proved through studies that even though economic growth continuously generates higher national income, it generates significant harm to the wellbeing of society and the planet.<sup>9</sup> The OECD emphasises three key findings associated with the patterns of economic growth over the recent decades in OECD countries:<sup>10</sup>

- GDP growth no longer translates into increasing living standards of median and lower income holders, because of rising inequalities.
- Economic growth no longer supports the improvement of wellbeing. In recent decades, people have paid more attention to measures of their wellbeing (fulfilment and flourishing of life). For example, security and satisfaction of their work, physical and mental health, social networks and family relationships, social determinants (trust in society and crime levels), and standards of public services (education, health, and infrastructure).
- Severe environmental degradation coupled with today’s pattern of economic growth based on significantly high resource consumption undermines the capacity to maintain current standards of living.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2020). *Back to Our Common Future*. New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

<sup>8</sup> [Ibid.](#)

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (2011) *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable*

*Development and Poverty Eradication - A Synthesis for Policy Makers*. [www.unep.org/greeneconomy](http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy)

<sup>10</sup> OECD. (2019). *BEYOND GROWTH: TOWARDS A NEW ECONOMIC APPROACH Report of the Secretary General’s Advisory Group on a New Growth Narrative*. Paris: OECD.

The International Monetary Fund says since that the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the state of fragmentation of the world, inequalities in economic growth and social wellbeing, and environmental quality have worsened. International evidence has pointed to the need to practice a balanced path of economic, and social development, emphasising underpinning environmental consideration and improving system resilience to enable societies to withstand unexpected sudden shocks to the economy. This is consistent with 'Rio+20; The Future we want', the common vision affirmed by the world leaders for sustainable development.<sup>11</sup> Many are keen to participate in this new approach. Governments and all economic sectors are investing their efforts to adopt various strategic approaches to make this transition happen.

'Green Economic Approaches' are not only environmental in scope. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) explains that this approach is "one that improves human wellbeing and builds social equity while reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities".<sup>12</sup> This implies that economic growth should be driven by public and private investments in infrastructure and assets that reduce carbon emissions, and environmental pollution, improve resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, prevent loss of biodiversity, and protect ecological systems. This requires growing opportunities to generate employment, infrastructure development, organisational and institutional, education, technology and skill development, partnerships and collaborations, investment in new markets and international relationships which ultimately bring social wellbeing and socio-economic resilience.<sup>4</sup>

## Risks, obstacles, and challenges in the Green Economic Transition

However, due to its broader scope, this transition is associated with challenges, risks, and obstacles in transitioning, planning, implementation, evaluation and moving forward. For instance, to balance the economic development strategies in the framework of three pillars; environment, social and economy without being purely operationalised on 'environmental' achievements. The approaches should vary in accordance with the country's own socio-economic situation, expectations, and capacities. This is in line with both macroeconomic and microeconomic approaches.

Another key concern is the disparities in 'structural transformation process' in macroeconomic dimensions and microeconomic levels due to differences in the capacity levels of technology, knowledge, finance and socio-cultural impacts.<sup>13</sup> Again, this becomes a crucial issue in various aspects. Namely, when providing institutionalised facilities through correct investments, state of international trade patterns and conditions, securing of food production, providing equal benefits of technological developments and mechanisms for equal access to absorb, and protection of intellectual rights.<sup>14</sup> Indeed, effective microeconomic decision making in financing for subsidies and investment in green technologies is very challenging.

Globalisation and international trade bring international dimensions and can play a crucial role in development and sustainability of green economic growth in promoting exchange of

<sup>11</sup> Gehring, M. (2016). Legal Transition to the Green Economy. In *McGill Journal of Sustainable Development Law*, 12(2) 138-173.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Green Economy*. www.UNEP.org

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Green Economy*. www.UNEP.org.

environmental goods and services. These could include environmentally sound technologies, resource efficient production and consumption practices. Government policies can strengthen the production of environmental goods and services while diversifying away from resource-intensive export-led growth paths.

However, these trade policies could bring difficulties to some countries and industries. Cosby and Khor argue and explain this scenario in their Expert Panel Report to the UNCSO about the possibilities of using environmental considerations for trade protectionist purposes.<sup>15</sup> In the meantime, private companies or NGOs are developing standards and certifications at a domestic and global level.

### Role of legislations to induce Green Economy Transition

Legislation is the social tool to produce a common path of adherence to bring harmony. They are generated as the will of the majority respecting fundamental principles and rights decided by society itself. From this perspective, laws invented for the green economy will enable and incentivise socio-economic and environmental harmony through national regulations, policies and suitable institutions and investments. Consequently, such legislation will encourage sustainable consumption and production by redirecting public investments and procurement and incentivising cleaner innovation. This can encourage firms to embrace opportunities to use cleaner technologies, financial sharing, research and development, and boost competitiveness through sustainable products and services.<sup>16</sup> Further, it will foster the society turning in

environmentally friendly lifestyles with more awareness on consumption patterns.

International commitments and agreements such as Agenda 2030, The Paris Agreements, World Trade Organisation negotiations and the Kyoto protocol, provide guidance to governments to prepare necessary mechanisms that will foster the green economy transition.

### The interrelation of legislations; International, national, and regional

Today's state of global interdependency and integration has brought agreement on common goals and a path of action. International law has evolved beyond acting as a safeguard regulatory instrument to become a system to guide and support domestic and regional laws to achieve peaceful coexistence around agreed goals.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, today's international law tries through 'soft laws' to systemise the conduct of different actors to follow desirable paths to achieve common goals. For instance, as Climate change has become a global matter, the UN has established the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992. Since then, the UN has introduced various international protocols to combat climate change. Most recently the Paris Agreement has directed states to invent suitable instruments within their territories to achieve the international zero-emissions target by the end of 21<sup>st</sup> century.

When it comes to the green economic transition, international economic law is particularly important. It influences the transition, focusing on three main economic components namely trade, investments, and finance. This scenario encourages innovation of

<sup>15</sup> Cosby, A. (2011). *Trade, Sustainable Development and a Green Economy: Benefits, Challenges and Risks*. New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Correa, F. (2006). The role of Law in the Green Economy. In *The World Bank Legal Review*. New York: World Bank.

legal systems in individual states and regions. The UNEP report on 'Trade and Green Economy' explains that the green economy is inextricably linked with international trade.<sup>18</sup> It suggests trade liberalisation for environmental goods and services and the greening of global value chains through appropriate regulations.

There are positive signs of moving towards incorporating clauses or provisions that promote environmental, social, and economic sustainability that can be seen in recent international trade agreements. In 2001, at the Doha negotiations, the World Trade Organisation declared the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to Environmental, social and governance factors (ESGs), but still there is no clear definition or coverage.<sup>19</sup>

In 2011, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation adopted the Honolulu Declaration to propose and develop ESGs to liberalise tariffs and agreed upon 54 environmental goods in 2012. The European Union (EU) has taken significant initiative on this movement including separate chapters to advance the trade liberalisation for EGS. Some examples are the Economic Partnership Agreement with the Caribbean forum in 2008, the Free Trade Agreement signed with South Korea, and agreements with Central American countries.

Researchers highlight the importance of having a multilateral framework to ensure the consistency of objectives at the international level and effective policies and implementations

at national levels.<sup>20</sup> The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), where New Zealand is a key trade partner, added a separate chapter for environmental perspectives.<sup>21</sup> It declares enforcement of state environmental laws and ensuring not to deviate from laws to have trade protections intending to gain trade or investment advantage.

Turning to investments, the UNEP report on 'Towards a Green economy' declares the need to invest 1-2.5% of global GDP per year in key sectors to achieve the objectives of the green economy transition.<sup>22</sup> This encourages host countries to focus on mobilising their assets and capabilities for quality investments that support sustainable development, rather than focus on the monetary worth coming to the country. Further, the report emphasises the necessity of establishing sound regulatory frameworks to promote and ensure quality investments. With these initiatives, nowadays many bilateral and regional trade agreements are starting to include a chapter on "sustainable development".<sup>23</sup>

When it comes to financing the green economy, financial sectors can positively influence growth by increasing the level of environmental responsibility of their clients. This can be done by encouraging the incorporation of environmental regulations in financial risk assessments.<sup>24</sup> Rio+20 facilitated financial assistance to developing countries by

<sup>18</sup> International Institute for Sustainable Development & United Nations Environment Programme. (2014). *Trade and Green Economy: A Handbook*. Geneva: International Institute for Sustainable Development.

<sup>19</sup> Gehring, M. (2016). Legal Transition to the Green Economy. In *McGill Journal of Sustainable Development Law*, 12(2) 138-173.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (n.d.). *Understanding CPTPP*. [www.MFAT.govt.nz](http://www.MFAT.govt.nz)

<sup>22</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. (2011). *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication - A Synthesis for Policy Makers*. [www.unep.org/greeneconomy](http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy)

<sup>23</sup> Gehring, M. (2016). Legal Transition to the Green Economy. In *McGill Journal of Sustainable Development Law*, 12(2) 138-173.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

developed countries. Since then, many non-binding commitments have been made. Some examples are, the Global Environmental Fund declared in the Rio+20 and Green Growth Fund as declared in the Paris Agreement. However, the green economic transition requires the identification of new financial sources, effective organisation of financial channels, and effective leverage if investments.<sup>25</sup> Further, investors have started to think about including green and sustainable concerns in their investment analysing matrices, and therefore it is important to have regulation that encourages communication and transparency of environmental risks in an investment.

These initiatives influence and regulate lending practices not only in international finance flows but also in national and regional levels. Banks are the main source of lending for investments. The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision enacted amendments that increased the level of regulatory capital, liquidity requirements, and capital charges making a requirement for banks to assess the impact of environmental risks and liability on the bank's credits and operational risk exposures.<sup>26</sup> International Finance Corporation and Sustainable Banking Network are promoting and educating a better understanding of environmental risks for stability within financial systems.

### Countries responses

Some countries declare their commitment to transitioning to a green economy in their constitution. Thus, they express a clear link between environment conservation and economic development. Some examples are

Brazil, East Timor, Bhutan, and Belgium.<sup>27</sup> Some countries develop legal framework explaining the country's directions and targets and policy perceptions that underpin sustainable economic growth. Some examples are the 'Framework act on low carbon green growth' of the Republic of Korea, 'Delivering our Green Potential' of Ireland, 'Circular Economy Promotion Law' and 'National Commitment for the Environment (Grenelle II Law)' of France.<sup>28</sup> Though named differently, they all serve to reinforce the green economy development in different approaches that suit the socio-cultural and economic norms of their countries. They seek to do so by regulating economic and social activities, reviewing environmental impacts in a set time frame and incorporating necessary adjustments, and assisting and encouraging economic actors to adhere to regulations.

### Conclusion

Encouraging and fostering the transitioning of the green economy will need effectively designed instruments and frameworks. Legislation plays a crucial role in this transition. International frameworks, agreements and instruments also encourage national and regional level participation. Both economy and legislation are tools to help society, which means the change must come from the society itself that will choose its legislation to make its goals a reality.

<sup>25</sup> UNCSD Secretariat. (2012). Finance for the Transition to a Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication. *Rio 2012 Issues Brief*, 16.

<sup>26</sup> Gehring, M. (2016). Legal Transition to the Green Economy. In *McGill Journal of Sustainable Development Law*, 12(2) 138-173.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Atwill, N. (2010). *France: Law on National Commitment for the Environment*. Washington: Library of Congress.

# UNA NZ CONFERENCE

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# UN75

## 2020 AND BEYOND

## United Nations Association of New Zealand National Conference

Our annual National Conference provides a platform for promoting dialogue and thought-provoking discussion about the work of the United Nations. This year's annual conference looked back at 75 years of the United Nations, with a particular emphasis on the security council.

### 25 July

10.00am -4.00pm

1 Dr James Kember, Simon Draper, Nicola Hill, Nicholas Walbridge,  
Kelly Mackie, Dr Negar Partow, Mark Howard, Dr Graham Hassall and more.

**The United Nations  
Association of New Zealand**  
Te Roopu Whakakotahi  
Whenua o Aotearoa

PO Box 24494, Wellington 6142, New Zealand  
04 496 9638 office@unznz.org.nz unanz.org.nz  
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Welcome



Peter Nichols UNA NZ president (2018-2020) opened the conference and welcomed participants.

Dame Laurie Salas Memorial Address



Dr Gill Greer provided a frank insight into the UN from a position as someone with a wealth of experience in not-for-profit organisations engaging with the UN system and a driving force behind *The People's Report on the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals*.

Some of her key messages to participants were:

- It takes leadership at every level - global, national, community, whanau."
- "We must learn to live differently."
- "The smallest countries have the same voice as the largest countries."

Panel: The UN@75 a retrospective assessment

Recently UN Secretary-General António Guterres noted that the UN Charter "brought rules and hope to a world in ruins". In this panel session, Speakers provided their perspectives on the effectiveness of the United Nations looking back over its 75 years; what have been its successes and challenges?



Colin Keating



Simon Draper

Some of the key questions they considered were: Do we need a UN 2.0? What do we give and take as members? What are the failures of the Security Council?

Panel: The UN Security Council

Speakers in this panel session provided their perspectives on the efficacy of the UN Security Council and challenges to its leadership, performance, transparency and inclusiveness over time, including its subsidiary bodies and working methods. There was also comment on New Zealand’s influence in the UNSC and approach to security and peacekeeping more generally.

## A Conversation with the Rt Hon Helen Clark

Helen Clark is a champion of inclusive and sustainable development. She refocused and reformed UNDP into a more transparent, efficient, and accountable organisation which could better respond to the new environment while also ensuring that it kept its long term focus on human and sustainable development.

Helen is uniquely placed to comment on the UN@75; the trials and tribulations of international cooperation and the multilateral system.



Nicola Hill



Dr Nicholas Walbridge



Rt Hon Helen Clark

## Panel: Looking forward to the future of multilateralism and international cooperation

The United Nations is marking its 75th anniversary at a time of great disruption for the world, compounded by an unprecedented global health crisis with severe economic and social impacts. Will we emerge stronger and better equipped to work together? Or will distrust and isolation grow further? Will 2020 be a year of dialogue, when we come together to discuss our priorities as a human family, and how we can build a better future for all? Speakers in this panel session provided their views on where to from here.

This panel also highlighted the forthcoming book edited by Dr Graham Hassall and Dr Negar Partow and extend an invitation to the UNA NZ event later in 2020, with Colin Keating and Dr Kennedy Graham, on UN reform looking into the future.



Mark Howard

# 2020 UNA NZ Speech Award

Joy Dunsheath JP

For 35 years, the **UNA NZ Speech Award** has been an annual highlight throughout New Zealand. Many young New Zealanders have made their voices heard, discussed key issues, and engaged in debate frequently requiring a transformative societal agenda. Each year we strive to bring through our speech topics differing viewpoints on important issues so that New Zealanders gain a perspective and understanding of the United Nations.

Our topic for 2020 was: *Are the reasons for establishing the United Nations in 1945 still relevant today?* Students were required to speak for a minimum of 6 minutes and no longer than 8 minutes and to make a particular reference to the aims, work, and aspirations of the United Nations.

The year 2020 was significant as it was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations. Our Speech Award was part of the United Nations biggest-ever global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want. We planned to hold regional competitions with the winner of each travelling to Wellington for the final event. With the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic our plans changed, and speech award went virtual. We limited each secondary school to three entries per school.

The winner was **Desmond McBride** of Fraser High School, Hamilton.

The runner-up was **Demira Singh** of St Cuthbert's College, Auckland. You can see Desmond's speech on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HAoCG2jutw>

The prize for Desmond was a day in Wellington which included return flights, a short tour of Wellington including a cable car ride, a tour of Parliament, lunch at Parliament with Chris Bishop MP the 2001 Speech Award winner, and Nicola Willis MP a top NZ debater. Following lunch there was a quick tour of VUW Pipitea campus and Law School, *Te Tohu* exhibition at the National Library, and afternoon tea at MFAT with team members from the United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth groups. Fortunately, Covid-19 in Wellington was at Level 1 and we proceeded with this plan.



Usually, we have about 8 NZ finalists in Wellington and we hold an event with audience and three judges. I'm pleased to tell you that our quick change to a virtual, on-line competition was successful. The day in Wellington made a big impression on Desmond and here is a delightful email message from him:

*Hello, I would like to say thank you so much for the opportunity I had today. It is something I will always remember for the rest of my life, I really appreciate it. Thank you for all the effort you put into today for me to have an experience I loved it. I will be forever grateful, Thank you,*

*Desmond McBride*

A big thank you to Maisy Bentley, UNA NZ Executive Officer, Steven Arnold, UNA NZ National Council, and Peter Nichols, UNA NZ President for their assistance with this on-line competition.



Speech award winner Desmond McBride of Fraser High school with Chris Bishop MP holding the UNA NZ speech award trophy in the Parliamentary Council Chamber.

# UNA NZ Annual Speech Award

## Winners' List from 1986 - 2020

- 1986 - J. Danesh - OTAGO BHS
- 1987 - M. Parkison - PAKURANGA COLLEGE
- 1988 - J.A. Knight - BARADENE
- 1989 - Gregor Fountain WELLINGTON COLLEGE
- 1990 - Tofigo Lilo - OTAHUHU COLLEGE
- 1991 - Paula Tesoriero - KAPITI COLLEGE
- 1992 - Jasmyn Kara - RANGIORA HIGH SCHOOL
- 1993 - Emily Turnbull - RANGIORA HIGH SCHOOL
- 1994 - Angela Hersche – SACRED HEART COLLEGE (Lower Hutt)
- 1995 - Thomas Geuther – WELLINGTON COLLEGE
- 1996 - Tara Taukiri - RANGIORA HIGH SCHOOL
- 1997 - Jeffrey Abbot - WELLINGTON COLLEGE
- 1998 - Anna Cutfield – WANGANUI COLLEGIATE
- 1999 - David Dewar - HUTT INTERNATIONAL BOYS' SCHOOL
- 2000 - Rebecca Rose - FAIRFIELD COLLEGE
- 2001 - Christopher Bishop - HUTT INTERNATIONAL BOYS' SCHOOL
- 2002 - Phoebe Smith - LOGAN PARK HIGH SCHOOL
- 2003 - F. McKissack - FAIRFIELD COLLEGE
- 2004 - Rachel Meadowcroft - GERALDINE HIGH SCHOOL
- 2005 - Zaal Meher-Homji - ST PAUL'S COLLEGIATE
- 2006 - Pramudie Gunoratne - AUCKLAND GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL
- 2007 - Simon Todd - SAINT ANDREWS COLLEGE
- 2008 - Georgia Ramsden - WANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL
- 2009 - Dhaxna Sothieson - HILLCREST HIGH HAMILTON
- 2010 - Roneil Kintanar - ST PATRICKS SILVERSTREAM
- 2011 - Byron Terris - SACRED HEART COLLEGE AUCKLAND
- 2012 - Jemima Lomax-Sawyers - ST MARY'S COLLEGE WELLINGTON
- 2013 - Tariq Kader - WELLINGTON COLLEGE
- 2014 - Katie Mills - PAPANUI HIGH SCHOOL
- 2015 - Cheska Saavedra - HAMILTON GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
- 2016 - Sophie Clark - DIOCESAN SCHOOL
- 2017 - Olivia Bennett - ST CUTHBERT'S COLLEGE
- 2018 - Matthew Sutcliffe - WELLINGTON COLLEGE
- 2019 - Dan Harwood Jones - ONSLOW COLLEGE
- 2020 - Desmond McBride - FRASER HIGH SCHOOL



# Jacinda for PM

CHAMPION speechmaker Jacinda Ardern has a huge goal – to be New Zealand’s first female Prime Minister.

The Morrinsville College sixth former thinks her passion for public speaking could serve her well in politics, or any field which means dealing with people.

But, for the moment, this passion serves her well in winning speech competitions. An experienced member of the college’s formidable debating team, Jacinda recently took part in the Waikato regional competition of the United Nations Association of New Zealand and speech contest. The topic was ‘Drug Abuse: The Human Scourge’.

Competing against representatives from other Waikato schools at Te Awamutu College on April 9, Jacinda won the trophy.

She knew what to expect because she had watched her debating team colleague Matthew Norman come second last year. But she still didn’t feel well prepared.

“Mrs Malcon approached me about the competition about five days before,” she said. “So the speech wasn’t as fully prepared as I wanted it to be.”

She said one of the competition requirements was that the speech discuss the aims of the United Nations towards drugs and its allocation of resources.

“So I started the speech talking about how drug abuse affects people and society. Then I compared the amount of resources the UN have allocated to these problems.

“My argument was that the UN needs to allocate far more resources to the situation.”

Jacinda’s success means she will deliver her speech to members of the association when it meets for an annual conference in Wellington on May 24. She and the six other regional winners will speak as part of the opening ceremony.

speechmaker Jacinda Ardern  
United Nations trophy

A news clipping from a Morrinsville Fish and Chip Shop shows Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern holding the Waikato Branch UNA NZ speech award trophy and speaking about her ambitions to be Prime Minister after winning the regional competition.

# UNA NZ PRESIDENT REPORT FOR UNA NZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Covering the period from 1 June 2019 to 2 May 2020.

This is my second report to the Annual General Meeting as President.

Again, let me acknowledge the hard work and voluntary input from members of your National Executive, Branch President's and their committees and notable Special Officers. I also acknowledge the considerable output and support from our administrators Chris Vogliano and his replacement Maisy Bentley. In particular, I acknowledge the works of significance undertaken over this period:

- Secondary Schools speech competition
- Successful UNA NZ Conference
- AGM of UN Peacekeepers
- United Nations Day on 24 October 2019 at Premier House
- Address by Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director
- National Council 9-10 November Napier, thanks to Liz Remmerswaal for organising and her hospitality, see photo below.
- UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, 21 Nov Minister of Immigration Hon Iain Lees-Galloway and Distinguished Professor Spoonley, Parliament
- 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Botanical Gardens

- Climate Action event, Botanical Gardens, 5 Speakers including Chlöe Swarbrick: Green Party MP



These events don't just happen by themselves. They require planning, coordination, project management skills, risk management and time. My appreciation on your behalf to all involved.

The impact of COVID-19 has had a profound impact on the planet, New Zealand and UNA NZ. In the interests of safety first and government compliance, we closed the office and cancelled at a few days out the planned National Council meeting in March in Wellington. This was replaced by a google hangouts equivalent with more attending than would have otherwise. We reduced the Council meeting to two hours with 23 attendees from Prague to Christchurch attending.

I have stated previously in my tenure that membership is critical to our survival, vitality, and future. It is essential that our value proposition is vibrant, meaningful and of relevance. In simple terms, events are critical to adding lustre to our brand and meeting the value proposition to ensure value for money and time of our members. We have continued to deliver interesting events.

Our monthly newsletters and the annual magazine similarly, do not just happen by themselves. They require a lot of follow up

## CONFERENCE

work, coordination, encouragement and facilitation. Many thanks to all involved in these processes. The newsletters certainly further our goal of promoting engagement with the UN. Joy's Sunday slots on Access radio have furthered this goal along with Vice-President Gaya and myself on one occasion. It has been a pleasure to witness the ongoing vitality of UN Youth. I met with the previous President Jayden van Leeuwen on a routine basis and have endeavoured to continue that with his replacement Mark Howard who is Auckland based.

This year has again been busy. I shall list details below, and highlights/key achievements here. I attach at the end of this report for the record a list events from the President's diary.

A highlight has been recruiting or referring several new potential members to various branch presidents and rejuvenating NX/NC with new Officer holders. Shereen Al Faraj has replaced Lachlan Craig in the events portfolio who in turn has recently been replaced by Wendy Hart. Shereen has moved into the Communications area incorporating social media in conjunction with Maisy. Wajirani Adhihetty has stepped up as SO Sustainable Economy and Innovation. Ivan Chirino-valle has replaced Dr Barbara Bedeschi -Lewando as SO Climate Change & Environment, Dan Harward Jones has offered to replace Peter Cowley as Treasurer, and Sandra Park is replacing Arielle Tracey as Secretary. In particular I thank Pete Cowley for his many years as our Treasurer, voluntary Administrator duties and printing our Council and AGM papers.

I was saddened to receive Chris Vogliano's resignation. Throughout his time as the National Administration Officer, Chris worked in an exemplary manner. He was industrious, competent, responsive, reliable, and demonstrated excellent self-management

skills. We wish Chris every success for what is undoubtedly a stellar career ahead.

I sent letters of condolence to the next-of-kin of long-serving life members Margaret Knight QSM and Gita Brooke. Margaret founded the Waikato Branch and was a stalwart and backbone of the Waikato branch for many years. Gita was a dedicated and tireless worker for peace, and worked closely for many years with Dame Laurie Salas and Robin Halliday. She played a key role in the vitality of the UN Association of NZ Whanganui branch and she will be remembered with reverence and a deep sense of appreciation. It has also been a pleasure being involved with We the Peoples Foundation to reassess the investment strategy and to secure a more streamlined funding approach.

I have also appreciated 'fire-side' chats with former Presidents and appreciate their mentoring.

It has been a pleasure to meet with Pedram in Auckland, our two Vice-Presidents on numerous occasions and of course Wellington Branch.

Our Website has continued stay alive and the investment we put in to determining which company to go with and its construction is something we should not take for granted. I acknowledge our Administrators' skill in maintaining it, publishing documents on it and keeping it alive and relevant.

We have welcomed interns Alex Kerr from Australia, Nicholas Hutton Molitor, and Cecilia Rina Haryanti Wirodihardjo from Indonesia as interns. I acknowledge the support provided by John Morgan, Joy Dunsheath, Paula Pereda-Perez and Chris Vogliano in their support for the interns.

Correspondence

Notable correspondence has included: the letters of condolence to the Gita Brooke and Margaret Knight QSM families as mentioned earlier; a letter of commendation to Pedram Pirnia for his mahi in planning and organising the Summit Steering Group and Summit Stakeholder Group for the recent Sustainable Development Goals conference in Auckland;

- a letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Disarmament regarding the visit by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);
- a letter of support to Coexistence, UN-acknowledgement
- a press release about Count the Nuclear Weapons Money at Parliament
- a letter of commendation to Kate Smith Whanganui branch for her leadership and for the variety and range of events she compiled for a small branch
- Kennedy’s Letter to Fletcher Tabuteau, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs Parliament Building Wellington about ‘Strengthening multilateralism and restoring the mana of multilateral diplomacy’.

A ‘Draft Ambassador invite’ template Perhaps the highlight, with many members input, was to produce and have published a letter to the Editor in the Dominion Post Weekender as the response to Bishop Tamaki’s COVID-19 allegation the UN uses the virus to ‘control people’;  
 UN Association Uganda re my visit and then cancellation (due to COVID-19)  
 Peace Movement Aotearoa about when to recognise International Peace day and how we would be commemorating ANZAC Day  
 Governor General response re COVID-19

Email statistics

For the lovers of statistics, between 9 May 2019 – 2 May 2020, 358 days, I received 4,284 UN related emails or an average of 12 per day, and sent 2,825, or 8 per day.



Peter and Gaya with our Patron HE the Governor General Dame Patsy Reddy, representing UNA NZ at Waitangi Day, Government House

Accountability

I have concluded my previous reports to the National Council and AGMs with a set of priorities. I noted that it is important I be held to account for the successful operations of the UNA NZ. Accordingly, I shall always seek your feedback on issues. Equally I advise of outcomes pertaining to my previous list of priorities:

Resolve a sustainable budget: the budget now operates within budget. Due to COVID-19 and the subsequent financial impact, the

## CONFERENCE

We The Peoples Foundation suffered an \$80,000 reduction in our investments, and we have had to scale back expenditure considerably to ensure that fund is sustainable. My appreciation to Pete Cowley for ensuring our financial viability.

- Implement the strategic plan: yes/ongoing, thanks to Gaya for picking this up.
- Support Branches and Special officers: yes/ongoing.
- Encourage and support events: my appreciation to Gaya, Lachlan, Shereen and others for pushing the events agenda.
- Update UN Handbook and Constitution: updated for approval at the AGM.
- Complete UNA NZ Factsheet: numerous correspondence with Defence, MFAT, and Police to obtain a suitable photograph, a suitable photograph is yet to be procured, ongoing.
- Complete bequest info: completed.
- Promote a better-connected social media world: ongoing, with Shereen and Maisy making valuable contributions, my appreciation to all.
- Encourage a Branch hosting NCs: the October 2019 NC was held in Napier; the November 2020 NC will be hosted by Auckland.
- Support UN Youth: achieved, ongoing.
- Support interns: visited, hosted, encouraged, stayed in touch: achieved. I hosted a lunch for interns and their mentors.

## Focus Issues/priorities/to do list

Support Branches and Special officers  
 Support Administrator  
 Maintain progress on and implement the Strategic Plan  
 Monitor finances  
 Encourage and support events  
 Complete UNA NZ Factsheet  
 Support a better-connected social media world  
 Support interns

## Conclusion

It has been a very satisfying year with a huge variety of issues to address in promoting our goal of promoting engagement with the United Nations. I acknowledge and appreciate the work of many hands in furthering this laudable goal from Sustainable Development Goals to Human Rights and Peace and Security issues. I trust you too, have found your involvement to be rewarding, satisfying, fun and that you have learned something new.

The challenge will be to continue the momentum especially on the events front. I am enthused about our future.

I shall step aside as President at the end of this year and wish my replacement every success. Let's keep the momentum to enlighten New Zealanders on the admirable work of the United Nations.

He waka eke noa A canoe which we are all in with no exception



Peter Nichols  
 President



SUSTAINABLE  
 DEVELOPMENT GOALS

# UN YOUTH NEW ZEALAND REPORT FOR UNA NZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Covering the period from May 2019 to April 2020.

Mark Howard - *National President 2020*

## Introduction

The past year has been one of both great success to UN Youth and, in light of more recent circumstances, great challenges. In this report, I will set out an overview of our operational programmes, our major achievements and the obstacles which lie ahead of us, including how we intend to overcome them.

## Operational Overview

Since May 2019, UN Youth has run a great number of events at a regional, national and international level. Alongside this, the National Executive, Regional Councils, National Committees and International Directorships have been working hard on the day to day administration of the organisation, be it budget approvals, content creation or volunteer development.

## Regional Operations

The regions have been busy with a number of large events in the latter half of last year, and start of the 2020 year. In particular, Canterbury, Wellington and Auckland region have been trialling new event formats so as to ensure we are remaining fresh and relevant in

the eyes of young people. Many of these new event formats have focused on civics and equipping young people with the skills necessary to resolve problems within their communities. Whilst we fundamentally remain focused on educating youth on the United Nations and international affairs, our regional programmes are seeking greater civics engagement as well. We note that empowering young people to enact change within their communities relates closely to many of the SDGs, in particularly SDGs 10, 11, 13 and 17 are greatly supported by grassroots youth movements.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has hampered the regions ability to run physical events. In response to this, we are exploring running digital events at a regional level. Auckland has already gone digital with a Tertiary Case Competition, and other regions are preparing to follow suit. We hope that digital events will further increase accessibility to our regional events. In this way, digitalisation furthers our recent successes at running outreach events within geographically isolated parts of Aotearoa. Notably over the past year, Otago has held events in Cromwell, Canterbury in Nelson and Greymouth, Wellington in Taranaki, Hawkes Bay and Palmerston North, and Auckland in Waikato.

## National Operations

The past year has seen two of our three national events run with great success. NZ Model UN ran as per usual in Wellington in July and was met with rave reviews from participants. A big strategic shift for NZ Model UN has come in the form of greater emphasis on financial accessibility. 2019 NZ Model UN formally decided to cancel the annual NZ Model UN Ball (which cost in the order of \$8000 to run) and replaced it with a smaller scale NZ Model UN Gala, which ran at less than half the cost. Consequently, a record

## CONFERENCE

number of equitable scholarships to fund students facing financial difficulties were awarded. Reviews for the Gala were overwhelmingly positive, and few participants or volunteers felt that the reduction in scale was an issue. NZ Model UN 2020 has been indefinitely postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, but the National Executive and NZ Model UN Committee are working hard to attempt to run the event in late August, assuming it is then safe to do so.

2019 also saw the running of the second ever NZ Model Parliament in Christchurch. This event provided youth from across the country with an opportunity to learn about legislative functions in Aotearoa and was received extremely well. The event engaged with a record high proportion of South Island youth, with over half of the conference coming from across Te Waipounamu. With deep regret, the National Executive has cancelled NZ Model Parliament 2020 due to risks related directly to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are determined to bring the event back for 2021 and will work hard to achieve this.

April 2020 was also meant to see the running of Aotearoa Youth Declaration (AYD), our national civics conference based in Auckland. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled just a few weeks out due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. In response, the AYD Committee moved quickly to adapt the event into an online format. We are excited to announce that AYD Online will run in mid-May, offering hundreds of youth from around the country the opportunity to engage with critical communal, national and international issues. It is also well worth congratulating the AYD Committee on their ability to run a number of highly successful Regional Huis - small scale events designed to empower youth to seek positive change in their communities - prior to lockdown beginning. These events were held

all across Aotearoa, with notable emphasis on geographically isolated areas including Invercargill, Rotorua and Kaitaia.

### International Operations

A number of International Tours have run with great success since May 2019. July saw our Pacific Project tour travel with a group of secondary school students to Vanuatu and Australia, participating in the National Model UN Conference of the latter. We also ran a successful delegation to Australia's Evatt Competition in 2020, which saw our team finish in 3rd place; a great success! January and February saw our Global Development Tour travel across Europe, our North America Leadership Tour across Mexico, Canada and the USA, and our Globalisation Tour across Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Japan. Each of these was plagued with a host of logistical and welfare challenges by the budding COVID-19 Pandemic, but through the brilliant devotion of our International Directors, each of these was overcome and each Tour ran smoothly, with very positive feedback from participants.

### Major Developments

The past year has seen several major developments for UN Youth, both in the form of substantial achievements and challenges. These are addressed below.

### Major Achievements

The greatest change for UN Youth over the past year, and a change which the National Executive certainly consider an achievement, is that of our governance restructuring from a National Council model to a Board of Directors. The UN Youth Board is made up of alumni, both immediate past volunteers and older individuals, as well as independent Directors elected for their specialist skills in governance and finance. The Board has already made a highly positive impact on UN

Youth, providing excellent insights on risk analysis for the National Executive when making major decisions relating to COVID-19 event cancellation. The Board has also begun work on its strategic plan for UN Youth, which sets out our long term vision in a way that National Council has struggled to build upon. At the time of writing this report, the Board is considering implementing the following values into the 5 year strategy for UN Youth:

- Whanaungatanga / Community
- Creativity / Innovation
- Mōhioatanga / Development
- Equity / Diversity

By developing a coherent strategic plan, the Board of Directors allows UN Youth to grow in a way which clearly moves towards our ultimate objective of being the best organisation at genuinely empowering global citizens across Aotearoa.

Another major achievement for UN Youth has been the effective implementation of 'working groups' to inspire real change internally. In July 2019, our Civics Working Group wrapped up its work with a report suggesting ways for the organisation to better empower students in terms of civics education. Our Tikanga Working Group, which started as an initiative to ensure UN Youth was living up to our policy obligations to tikanga Māori, has recently been formalised as a permanent advisory body to UN Youth on all things Te Ao Māori, with a specific goal on empowering and engaging more Māori and Pasifika participants and volunteers. 2020 has seen our Welfare Committee (essentially a working group) begin work on a major inquiry into how effective we are at caring for the hauora of our volunteers and participants. Recently, we have established a Lockdown Story Sharing working group, with the goal of collating and sharing inspiring stories of youth supporting their local communities throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### Major Challenges

Like all non-profit organisations, UN Youth has been hit hard by the COVID-19 Pandemic, particularly in terms of finances. The National Executive and Board of Directors have been working hard to minimize financial impact to the organisation, but it is inevitable that we will suffer major losses in some form. To counter this, the National Executive has been engaging with the NZ Youth Global Awareness Trust, the trust set up to support UN Youth financially, as well as our diverse and passionate alumni base, in the hopes of receiving monetary support in these trying times. Despite the pandemic, we remain devoted to engaging with young people across Aotearoa and are attempting to do this through a comprehensive series of digital events. I welcome you to read our [Digital Events Strategy here](#). Finally, we have been working hard to maintain a sense of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga and community through holding various digital social events for volunteers from across the country. These have been received with great positivity.

### Looking Ahead

The next few months will be difficult for UN Youth; however, the National Executive are ready and prepared to take them on with everything we've got. We are particularly excited for our digital events and community engagement strategies, which we hope will inspire youth just as much as our physical events do. We are also eager to run physical events once more, hopefully from August onwards. Above all, we remain thankful for our wonderful volunteers whose hard work has been, and will continue to be, the pump on the beating heart of this organisation.

# Spirit of Service of Joy Dunsheath JP Recognised with Honorary Life Membership

Joy Dunsheath JP has been made an Honorary Life Member of the United Nations Association. Ms Dunsheath served as National President of UNA NZ from 2016 to 2018 and prior to that as Vice-President, furthering the association's goals to inform, inspire and engage all New Zealanders regarding the work, goals and values of the UN to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.

The National Council are very pleased that Ms Dunsheath joined the ranks of the Association's life members. These are individuals who have carried out distinguished service for the United Nations Association of New Zealand, and the United Nations over a period of years. It is a recognition of her spirit of service and a lifetime of voluntary work.

Ms Dunsheath's continues to contribute to UNA NZ's work with the UN system and Member States for urgent and concrete action to achieve a life of dignity for all and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ms Dunsheath has led events and important dialogue over many years which advance the three pillars of the UN: human rights, peace and security, and development. She has been particularly active in promoting understanding and implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.



"I am devoted to helping New Zealanders become familiar with the UN and to encourage NGOs to play a major role in achieving the SDGs. One of my key objectives is to make the UN more accessible to the public."

She has worked domestically and internationally as an advocate for human rights and gender for many years with several NGOs including UNA NZ, UN Women Aotearoa New Zealand, Graduate Women International (Hegg Hoffer Committee), White Ribbon Campaign, and as part of the Ministry for Women's International Women's Caucus. Highlights from her work with UNA NZ include representing New Zealand at the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) International Plenary Assemblies and election to its Board; promoting public speaking in secondary schools for over 40 years including the national UNA NZ Speech Award; and, advocating for human rights and gender for many years including at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York.

# Acknowledgements

## Editorial Team

### Editor

Maisy Bentley

### Assistant Editors

Catherine Ashworth

Sophie Crawford

Tom Peoples

### Contributors

Alyn Ware

Barbara Bedeschi-Lewando

Emeline Chastang

Gaya Paranisamy

Graham Hassall

Ivan Chirino-Valle

Jill Oakley

Joy Dunsheath

Julia Cerqueira Melo

Kennedy Graham

Leif Monnett

Mark Howard

Monique Corson

Mina Mirzakhani-Moghaddam

Negar Partow

Pedram Pirina

Peter Nichols

Wajirani Adhietty

# ABOUT UNA NZ

## WHO ARE WE?

United Nations Association of New Zealand (UNA NZ) is a national community organisation and a registered charity made up of regional branches, an independent youth association (UN Youth), affiliates, and members from across New Zealand.

We have branches in Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, Whanganui, Wellington and Christchurch.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

We educate New Zealanders about the activities of the UN and its agencies, New Zealand's involvement, and how to become involved. Our current focus is to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Global Security and UN Renewal.

Each year, we host numerous events, including our National Conference, which is our premier event that brings together nationwide members to participate in panel discussions. We also host our Secondary School Speech Awards Competition, aimed at empowering youth to become future leaders.



## UNA NZ NATIONAL COUNCIL

Your donation is acknowledged, appreciated and valued.

# BEQUEST INFORMATION

## TO INCLUDE UNA NZ

### WHAT TO DO?

- Decide to include UNA NZ in your Will.
- Discuss your intentions with your loved ones.
- Seek legal advice.
- Use this Codicil form to alter your Will.
- Inform UNA NZ that you have left a bequest in your Will.

### NAMED GIFTS

If you prefer you can designate your gift to a particular UNA NZ project and/or a focus area of work that is of particular interest to you.

### HOW DO I CHANGE MY WILL TO INCLUDE UNANZ?

You add a 'Codicil' to your Will. This is a simple one page addition to your existing Will and is much easier than having your entire Will re-written. A copy is included with this brochure.

### HOW CAN I DONATE?

Your generous gift can be placed in the We the Peoples Foundation (see back page for details). The Foundation was set up to finance the work of UNA NZ. When your gift is combined with those of other long term investors it accrues significant interest. UNA NZ can use this guaranteed source of funds to meet its on-going commitments. For example these funds enable it to employ a part time administrator.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[UNANZ.ORG.NZ](http://UNANZ.ORG.NZ)

YOUR GIFT WILL  
ENSURE THAT THE  
WORK OF THE UNA NZ  
WILL CONTINUE FOR  
GENERATIONS TO COME

## CODICIL

This Codicil, documents amendment(s) I wish to make to my Will as located at (Solicitor's Name):

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

The amendments I wish to make to my will:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Witness address: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of signing: \_\_\_\_\_

We the People's Bank: BNZ Lambton  
Quay. #: 02 0536 0457447 00.

## INVEST IN THE FUTURE



MAKING A BEQUEST  
TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
NEW ZEALAND



The United Nations  
Association of New Zealand  
Te Roopu Whakakotahi  
Whenua o Aotearoa





## Our people

We are made up of over 40 committed volunteers across New Zealand and employ one core staff at the National Office in Wellington. We work together to inform, inspire and engage all New Zealanders regarding the work, goals and values of the UN to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.

The United Nations Association's main ruling body is the National Council. It has three main roles per the Constitution:

- Governance of the organisation as a whole
- Policy making body of the organisation
- Coordination and support of our branches

The National Council meets up to four times a year in order to discuss and vote on yearly budgets, long-term strategic plans, policies, actions, and upcoming events. The National Executive is responsible for the day-to-day running of the organization and the National office, upcoming events, payments and accounts. It employs the National Administrator, whose key role is public relations, organizational administration and development, and project and event management. The role supports the National President and our Regional Branches. Honorary Life members are recommended by the National Council at an Annual General Meeting.

Usually these are individuals who have carried out distinguished service for the United Nations Association of New Zealand, and/or the UN over a period of years. Honorary Life Members are non-voting members of the National Council. Our Constitution states that Life Members do not pay membership fees, may be in attendance at, and receive the papers for, the National Council with speaking rights, but no vote. Life Members have voting rights at any Special General and Annual General Meetings.

### UNA NZ National Executive

President  
Gayathri Paranisamy

Immediate Past President  
Peter Nichols

Treasurer  
Dan Harward Jones

Executive Officer  
Maisy Bentley

Secretary  
Catherine Ashworth

Communications Officer  
Danika Cuillo

Events Officer  
Wendy Hart

WFUNA  
Joy Dunsheath

### Special Officers

Wajirani Adhietty  
Jean-Paul Bizosa  
Alyn Ware  
Dr Paula Pereda-Perez  
Dr Negar Partow  
Pedram Pirnia  
Joy Dunsheath  
Rob Clarke  
Dr Ivan Chirino-Valleo  
Dr Rosalind McIntosh

### Branch Presidents

Karen Creagh Northern  
Dr Gray Southon Tauranga  
Mano Manohoran Waikato  
Kate Smith Wanganui  
Julia Cerqueria Melo Wellington  
Pauline Mckay Canterbury  
Monique Corson Manawatu

### Ordinary Council Members

John Morgan  
Hana Mereraiha  
Karim Dickie  
Shereen Al Faraj

### Honorary Life Members

Alyn Ware  
Margaret Knight  
Clinton Johnson  
Dr Kate Dewes  
Dr Graham Hassall  
Mary McGiven  
Margaret Knight  
Margaret Arnold  
Lady Rhyl Jansen  
Mary Gray  
Colin McGregor  
Robin Halliday  
Joy Dunsheath