

# United Nations Association of New Zealand

## National Conference



25 July 2020  
10.00AM - 4.30PM



Join the Conversation. Be the change.

**Ka nui te mihi Kia koutou katoa.**

**A warm welcome to the United Nations Association of New Zealand 2020 Conference.**

Each year the United Nations Association of New Zealand (UNA NZ) holds its main event: the National Conference. Past themes have included Global Summitry, The International Rules Based Order: climate change, disarmament and non-aggression.

We also mark the occasion with the Dame Laurie Salas Memorial Lecture. Dame Laurie was a stalwart of UNA NZ and made valued contributions to peace and security within the United Nations context.

This year our theme marks 75 years of the UN's existence. Arising from the tragedy of World War II and the former League of Nations, the United Nations has grown into the planet's most significant agency promoting peace, human rights, and most recently the Sustainable Development Goals. The last 75 years have seen wars concluded, 100s of millions rising out of poverty, pandemics, increasing periods of peace and less wars, resolution of innumerable issues, and above all, hope for justice, humanity, and a better world.

Not all has been perfect. There have been failures. But without the United Nations, you may well ask: where would we be? Would the world be as safe, secure and prosperous? Would/could climate change be worse?

This conference aims to provide insights from well-informed academics, politicians and notable practitioners.

We welcome your attendance, your questions, views and insights.

**Peter Nichols, President, United Nations Association of New Zealand**

## Sessions: Saturday 25 July 2020, 10.00am-4.30pm

Time	Session	Speakers
10.00am	Mihi whakatau and welcome	<a href="#">Peter Nichols</a> , National President
10.05am	<p><b>Special session:</b>  <b>Dame Laurie Salas Memorial Address</b></p> <p>Dr Gill Greer will provide 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 <i>The People's Report on the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals</i>.</p>	<a href="#">Dr Gill Greer</a> , Equality Activist and Advocate
11.00am	<p><b>Panel: The UN@75 a retrospective assessment</b></p> <p>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 will provide their perspectives on the effectiveness of the United Nations looking back over its 75 years; what have been its successes and challenges?</p>	<p><a href="#">Simon Draper</a>, Executive Director, Asia New Zealand Foundation, former director MFAT United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division</p> <p><a href="#">Dr James Kember</a>, NZIIA Chair of Research and Publications Committee, former New Zealand Ambassador</p> <p><a href="#">Colin Keating</a>, former Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> <a href="#">Peter Nichols</a>, National President</p>
12.00pm	<b>Opportunity for questions to the panel</b>	<i>Moderator:</i> <a href="#">Peter Nichols</a> , National President
12.30pm	<b>Lunch break</b>	
1.00pm	Welcome to the afternoon	<a href="#">Gaya Paranisamy</a> , National Vice-President
1.05pm	<p><b>Panel: The UN Security Council</b></p> <p>Speakers in this panel session will provide 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 will also be comment on New Zealand’s influence in the UNSC and approach to security and peacekeeping more generally.</p>	<p><a href="#">Nicholas Walbridge</a>, Private Secretary Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, former lead adviser UNHRC Division, MFAT</p> <p><a href="#">Terry Johanson</a>, Lecturer, Centre for Defence and Security Studies, Massey University</p> <p><a href="#">Kelly Mackie</a>, former New Zealand Adviser to the United Nations</p> <p><a href="#">Nicola Hill</a>, Assessments Manager, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p>

- 2.00pm **Opportunity for questions to the panel** *Moderator: [Gaya Paranisamy](#), National Vice-President*
- 2.30pm **Special session:  
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.  
  
*Rt Hon Helen Clark*, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, former administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Chair of the United Nations Development Group, and Patron of UNA NZ  
  
*With [Peter Nichols](#), National President*
- 3.15pm **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 will provide their views on where to from here.  
  
This panel will also highlight 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.  
  
*Dr Graham Hassall*, Research Associate, Victoria University of Wellington  
  
*Dr Negar Partow*, Senior Lecturer Massey University, UNA NZ Special Officer for the UN Security Council  
  
*Mark Howard*, UN Youth President  
  
*Moderator: [Gaya Paranisamy](#), National Vice-President*
- 4.15pm **Concluding remarks and Karakia Whakamutunga** *[Peter Nichols](#), National President*

## Speakers



### **Dame Laurie Salas Memorial Address (morning)**

**Dr Gill Greer** co-edited “The People’s Report” on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS). She is a Board member of Evofem Biotech – a Nasdaq listed company working in women’s health in San Diego – and recently completed a contract as Commissioner for the review of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, working in 160 different countries.

She is the former CE of the National Council of Women, and the Rare Disorders New Zealand where she is now CEO. She has held CE positions with Volunteer Service Abroad New Zealand, as Director General of IPPF (London) and CE of New Zealand Family Planning. A teacher originally, much of her work has been with community groups in New Zealand and internationally, with a focus on ensuring that the voices of the most vulnerable individuals and communities, and in particular women, girls, and young people, LGBTQI+ and the disabled are heard, and all people have the opportunity to realise their full potential. This has involved service delivery and advocacy in many settings-with the UN, governments, parliamentarians, and communities, bringing together coalitions of cross sectoral groups to achieve positive change. As well as leadership of organisations and coalitions she has wide experience in governance and advisory roles, including with governments. She has written two books on Katherine Mansfield, and was the researcher for the award winning documentary “A Portrait of Katherine Mansfield”, and co-writer of a book on Robin Hyde. Gill was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for services to international health and women’s rights in 2012, and awarded an MNZM previously for her contribution to Family Planning and New Zealand Literature. In December she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Victoria University of Wellington, where she was previously Assistant Vice Chancellor Equity and Human Resources, Director Student Services and Liaison Officer.



### **A Conversation with Rt Hon Helen Clark (afternoon)**

**Rt Hon Helen Clark** is a respected global leader on sustainable development, gender equality and international cooperation.

She served three successive terms as Prime Minister of New Zealand between 1999 and 2008. While in government, she led policy debate on a wide range of economic, social, environmental and cultural issues, including sustainability and climate change.

She then became the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator for two terms from 2009 to 2017, the first woman to lead the organisation. She was also the Chair of the United Nations Development Group, a committee consisting of the Heads of all UN funds, programmes and departments working on development issues.

In 2019 Helen Clark became patron of The Helen Clark Foundation. She is an active member of many global organisations.

She was recently announced as the co-chair of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR) to evaluate the world’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The panel is being established in response to the resolution of the World Health Assembly in May requesting the World Health Organisation’s Director-General to establish an independent review.



[Simon J Draper](#), Executive Director is an experienced diplomat with an extensive international background in negotiation and relationship management. He joined the Foundation in September 2015, coming from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) where he has worked in various roles since 1991. Most recently he held the role of director of the United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division. In this role, he managed New Zealand's engagement and policy with the United Nations in New York, the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and the Commonwealth in London. A key part of the role was to drive New Zealand's successful campaign for a United Nations Security Council seat.

Simon has held several other leadership positions within MFAT, including New Zealand's Consul-General to French Pacific Territories (2008-2011), director of the chief executive's office (2005-2008) and foreign policy adviser to Rt Hon Simon Upton. Before joining MFAT, he worked in the banking and consultancy sectors. He speaks working level Korean, French and Italian.



[Dr James Kember](#) is the NZIIA Chair of Research and Publications Committee, former New Zealand Ambassador

Dr Kember has served as New Zealand's Ambassador to France, and previously was Ambassador to the African Union and Ethiopia. He has also served as Head of Mission in Viet Nam, Hong Kong and the Cook Islands, and carried out assignments to the United Nations in New York and to New Caledonia.



[Colin Keating](#) is a former Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations.

He served from 1993-1996 and on the Security Council from 1993-1994, present for both the Rwandan Genocide and the mission to Somalia.

He is a Senior Research Fellow at Columbia University and was the Executive Director of Security Council Report, an institution producing reports on the UN Security Council and working to increase its transparency and effectiveness.



[Nicholas Walbridge](#) is the Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs) in the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and a former lead adviser United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2017), political coordinator New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York, United States (2016), Africa Coordinator / Deputy Political Coordinator (2013-2016), and research analyst for the Security Council Report (2011-2013)

He holds a Master's degree in Political Science (International Relations) from Leiden University, and an LLB/BA from Victoria University of Wellington.



**Terry Johanson** is a Lecturer at the Centre for Defence and Security Studies, on Massey University's Manawatu Campus. Terry has extensive experience in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses in military command, military operations and defence planning. Between 2011 and 2018, Terry educated military professionals at the Command and Staff College programmes of the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Brunei Armed Forces and New Zealand Defence Force. Prior to joining Massey University, Terry served 17 years as an Artillery Officer in the New Zealand Army during which he conducted operational tours to East Timor and Afghanistan as well as overseas training in Europe, South East Asia and North America. He is also a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College and UK Royal School of Artillery. Terry is currently a PhD candidate researching the evolving role of military forces in the contemporary security environment.



**Kelly Mackie** is a senior advisor at the National Emergency Management Agency. She was an advisor at the New Zealand Mission to the UN in New York during New Zealand's 2015-16 Security Council term. In this role, Kelly supported New Zealand's engagement on Security Council sanctions, counter-terrorism and Afghanistan. She then joined the New Zealand Embassy in Washington, D.C. as an advisor on defence and security issues from 2017-18. Kelly holds a LLB and BA (International Relations and Political Science) from Victoria University.



**Nicola Hill** is the Assessments Manager, National Assessments Bureau, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. She is a former diplomat with twenty five years foreign and security policy experience including as New Zealand's Political Coordinator to the United Nations Security Council in 2014-15 and Special Adviser to New Zealand's UNSG campaign for Helen Clark in 2016. She has served twice in New York, including being elected Vice-President of the UN's human rights committee in 2009 in her personal capacity and as assistant to the Chair concluding the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006.



**Dr Graham Hassall** is a Research Associate and former Associate Professor in the School of Government at the Victoria University of Wellington. His research focuses in two areas: the public sector in the Pacific Islands, and global public Policy and institutions. He has lived in and taught at Universities in Australia, Switzerland, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and now New Zealand. He is a life-member of the United Nations Association of New Zealand, having served as national President 2012-2016, and he as the Chair of the New Zealand Centre for Global Studies.



**Dr Negar Partow** is a Human Security specialist and senior lecturer in the Centre for Defence and Security Studies at Massey University's Wellington campus. She has taught and written extensively on the dynamics of politics and religion, international security, ethics, human security, the Middle East religions and security environment, the United Nations' peacekeeping operations and human rights. Negar holds a PhD from Victoria University and two Master's degree from Iran and New Zealand. She has supervised many research topics on security and defence and has been a consultant for various government departments in NZ. In addition to teaching, Negar is a regular media commentator on various issues and has worked with civil society groups and NGOs on human security issues.



**Mark Howard** is the National President of UN Youth New Zealand, the independent youth branch of UNA NZ. Each year, UN Youth engages with thousands of young people from Invercargill to Kaitaia, providing spaces to learn about the values of the United Nations, critically discuss global issues and bring youth voice to the community, national and international stage. As National President, Mark is responsible for overseeing all of UN Youth's initiatives. Beyond UN Youth, Mark is in his fifth year of studying law and education at the University of Auckland.



**Peter Nichols** is the National President of the United Nations Association of New Zealand and is a public servant working at the Environmental Protection Authority. He has worked overseas in a variety of countries including in Australia and Asia, (Singapore/Malaysia for 5 years, and 5 years in Indonesia/Philippines where he worked in the New Zealand Embassy). He took a keen interest in issues in East Timor leading up to its independence and worked as a team site leader in 1991/92 to implement the peace accords with the United Nations Angola Verification Mission II. He led a team as part of New Zealand's Provincial Reconstruction team in Afghanistan in 2005/06.

In New Zealand, Peter has worked for 2 Governors General, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in the Domestic and External Security Group, has managed teams of 100 plus on several occasions, been responsible for security at Parliament and managed the Otaki Children's Health Camp. Peter has a first-class honours Master's degree in Strategic Studies, is an Associate Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Management, and a graduate of the Australian and Indonesian Command and Staff Colleges. He is a past Chair of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, a member of the New Zealand Indonesia Association and Council, a member of the United Nations Association of New Zealand and has been actively involved in the Scouting movement. Peter is married to Dr Ruth Nichols and they have two adult children, Emma and David. Peter walks, plays golf, reads and enjoys family time.



**Gaya Paranisamy** is the Vice-President of the United Nations Association of New Zealand. She is a Quantity Surveyor from Malaysia and has worked in many different construction project across Malaysia. She migrated from Malaysia 5 years ago to work on the Earthquake Rebuilding in Christchurch. Currently, she is working as a Cost Manager in an Engineering Consultant Company in Wellington. She is also a committee member for NAWIC (National Association of Women in Construction). Last year, Gaya won a "Highly Commended Award" for Rising Star category, NAWIC Award. Gaya is very passionate about Sustainability in Construction and equality.

## About the United Nations Association of New Zealand



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

UNA NZ was founded shortly after the United Nations itself in 1945, and is formally associated with the UN Department of Public Information. We are a member of The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), which provides links with United Nations Associations in other countries throughout the world.

UNA NZ members come from all areas and walks of life. What brings them together is a shared interest in the work of the United Nations and in trying to make the world a better place.

UNA NZ is also affiliated with a number of organisations who are looking for synergies and collaboration. It is supported by the We the People's Foundation to grow a capital base for the organisation.

If you would like more information about UNA NZ and membership, please contact the National Office on (04) 496 9638, or [office@unanz.org.nz](mailto:office@unanz.org.nz), or visit our website <https://www.unanz.org.nz/participate/>

You can also connect with us on Social Media and follow upcoming events and news!

