



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Sixteen years after the genocide in Rwanda, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon vowed that the international community would never again sit by while mass atrocities are committed against innocent civilians.

DEVELOPMENT - Fragile Nations Speak up to Donors - An international dialogue meeting in East Timor Saturday saw fragile states make giant steps in showing developed nations how aid can be more effectively channelled to achieve their key development goals.

CLIMATE CHANGE - In a bid to revive climate negotiations, the EU has pledged \$3.2 billion to developing countries through 2012, money to supplement some \$30 billion pledged by developed countries to poorer countries over the same period in the Copenhagen accord. At new climate talks in Bonn, the first since the end of a frustrating round of UN talks at Copenhagen, developing countries insisted that the UN draft a carbon-emissions treaty by the end of the year - but divisions and mistrust could hamper the effort.

HUMAN RIGHTS - The Association of Southeast Asian Nations called on Myanmar officials to ensure free and fair elections, in comments that showed unusually blunt language for Myanmar but nevertheless fell short of calling for Myanmar to allow Democratic activist Aung San Suu Kyi to participate. Though the ASEAN bloc is holding to a policy of noninterference, representatives from member states met with Myanmar counterparts to offer suggestions and recommendations - perhaps reflecting the concern that Myanmar is hurting the region's credibility as a political bloc.

■AFRICA

D.R. CONGO - About 530,000 children younger than five and more than a million women need urgent nutritional support in the Democratic Republic of Congo, says the Ministry of Health. Officials are calling for more resources for prevention and treatment and for agricultural production to be improved.

RWANDA - People with disabilities left out of condom campaign - Rwanda's recent national condom awareness campaign failed to include messages designed for people with disabilities, something experts say is a mistake, as they are often equally at risk of HIV as the rest of the population.

SOUTH AFRICA - As the World Bank approved a controversial three-billion-dollar loan for a coal-fired power plant in South Africa Thursday, both the details and the broader impacts of the loan continue to be criticised by community and environmental groups.

ZAMBIA - Health Fears Follow Floods - As the heavy rains subside, signifying the end of the rainy season, a cholera outbreak is sweeping through the Zambian capital, Lusaka.

■ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - The detention of nine members of an Italian medical NGO in Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan, on charges of "terrorism and assassination" has embarrassed aid workers across the country.

SRI LANKA - Voters in conflict-affected northern Sri Lanka failed to turn out in great numbers for parliamentary elections last week, with many citing dissatisfaction with their own plight since returning to their homes after months of displacement.

■MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT - A draft law in Egypt curbing the independence of local NGOs has angered aid workers and bodes ill for civil society freedom, experts say.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - The United Nations and several relief organisations have started relocating Haitian families at risk of floods ahead of the rainy season. Up to 7,500 people considered at highest risk from mudslides and floods are expected to be moved from their makeshift camps at a golf course in the next two weeks. The UN said people were offered voluntary relocation options. If these options are not available they will be sent to host families or to a new camp set up in Corail Cesselesse, about 20 kilometres north of the capital Port au Prince. Aid agencies working in Haiti have complained that the government has been slow to identify safer sites for new settlements, not allowing enough time to guarantee people's safety and dignity. The 12 January earthquake left more than one million people homeless and killed more than 200,000.

WFWO's Communications Team