



■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Almost 200 nations meet in Mexico beginning Monday to try to agree on modest steps to slow climate change, a UN gathering overshadowed by strains between the top two emitters, the United States and China.

UNITED NATIONS peacekeepers could improve their protection of civilians if roles and priorities were clarified, political support were increased, resources boosted and a comprehensive protection strategy developed, say analysts.

Demining operations in 2009 cleared the largest area of land in a single year since the landmark 1999 Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) was implemented, and the lowest annual casualty rate was also recorded, said the 2010 Landmine Monitor report released on 24 November.

■AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - Ivoirians are set to vote in a presidential run-off election on 28 November, hoping for a peaceful outcome to an often violent contest and an end to a decade of instability.

DRC - The Democratic Republic of Congo recorded 63 cases of type 1 poliomyelitis, the most virulent form, in 2010, with a sharp rise in cases over the past two months, according to health officials.

■ASIA & PACIFIC

KYRGYZSTAN - Hundreds of people who lost their homes during ethnic clashes in southern Kyrgyzstan in June are moving into new earthquake-resistant "transitional" dwellings: about 2,000 will be completed by the end of November, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

MYANMAR - Efforts by Myanmar's military government to incorporate that country's numerous armed ethnic groups into a single border guard force will probably lead to further conflict and spawn an influx of refugees into neighbouring countries, analysts and aid workers warn.

■MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT - With the Egyptian parliamentary elections around the corner, candidates, as well as their parties, are using all the ethical and non-ethical weapons in order to win. And Egyptian bloggers, on the other hand, are watching, reporting, and sometimes participating in the ongoing war.

IRAQ - Eliminating gender-based violence in Kurdistan, the conservative northern region of Iraq where "honour"-based killings are still common, remains a battle. But the regional government has reaffirmed its commitment to tackle the tribal traditions that devalue women's lives.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - A recent wave of violence has frightened residents of Rio de Janeiro and reignited a familiar public debate on security in the city. A great wave of panic, in part brought on by the mainstream media, also brings to the fore a new problem: the great proliferation of false rumors on the internet.

HAITI goes to the polls in an election that has been fraught with controversy and affected by the ongoing cholera epidemic.

WFWO's Communications Team