



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for renewed disarmament commitments in advance of a conference on nuclear nonproliferation that may serve as a forum for countries to voice nuclear tensions. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has asked to travel to New York to serve as the delegate for Iran to address the conference even as the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany discuss opening new sanctions against Iran. Ban said that Iran will need to prove to the international community that its nuclear program is indeed peaceful in order to make significant progress at the nuclear nonproliferation conference.

CLIMATE CHANGE - The UN-led global initiative to use forest conservation as a way to offset greenhouse gas emissions heated things up at the people's summit against climate change in Bolivia. In the end, the participants reached a consensus - and rejected the plan. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) has quickly risen to the top of the discrepancies between the environmentalists and social activists on one hand, and the wealthy countries on the other, with the latter wanting to pay to preserve forests in developing countries as a way to offset their climate-changing carbon emissions at home.

■AFRICA

NIGER - Food shortages in Niger have forced hungry country-dwellers to beg for sustenance in the capital, Niamey. Some 7.8 million West Africans will face food shortages in the coming year, and some say aid organizations are not yet doing enough.

RWANDA - Sixteen years after the Rwandan genocide, thousands of perpetrators who confessed their roles before the traditional Gacaca Courts have been released and sentenced to community service, but survivors say this is an inadequate punishment.

ZAMBIA - Poor conditions mean double jeopardy for inmates - Doing time in Zambia's prisons may be a death sentence, regardless of the crime or conviction, as conditions behind bars drive high rates of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) says a new report.

■ASIA

INDONESIA - Families struggle as more women work overseas - The number of women leaving the archipelago, legally or illegally, has been steadily climbing over the past decade, according to the National Authority for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Overseas Workers.

MYANMAR - Nargis recovery needs more funds - Two years after Cyclone Nargis devastated Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Delta, funding remains key in sustaining ongoing recovery efforts, the UN says.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - A lack of rehabilitation clinics, physiotherapists and assisted-living facilities in Haiti has medical aid workers concerned for the future of the estimated 4,000 to 6,000 Haitians who lost limbs or were rendered paralyzed by the Jan. 12 earthquake. Haiti is home to only about a dozen physiotherapists and has no facilities with medical personnel trained to treat spinal cord injuries.

MEXICO - Mexico is gearing up for the environmental effects of the oil spill caused by last week's sinking of a BP-owned deepwater drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, off the coast of the U.S. state of Louisiana.

WFWO's Communications Team