



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Against the backdrop of a major summit meeting of world leaders on nuclear non-proliferation hosted by the United States, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed strong doubts about the longstanding proposal to create a nuclear-free zone in the militarily-volatile Middle East.

UNITED NATIONS - A document left on a European hotel computer outlining the Obama administration's strategy for ongoing negotiations in advance of UN climate talks in Cancun in the fall reveals that the U.S. favors a "take-it-or-leave-it" approach - defying calls by other countries to debate individual aspects of the climate accord. A decision by delegates from 175 countries debating the U.S.-brokered climate accord to allow talks chair Margaret Mukahanana-Sangarwe to decide which elements from the U.S. deal to include in the UN's official negotiating text has resulted in a delay.

CLIMATE CHANGE - More intense and more frequent floods, droughts and storms generated by the unfolding impact of climate change are hitting millions of people, especially in rural areas in developing countries, yet many are unaware of the growing danger because climate change is hard to understand, and even fewer are prepared to deal with it.

HEALTH - A group of independent experts launched a review the World Health Organization's management of the H1N1 flu outbreak today, in an effort to examine and improve the organization's public health emergency policies. "We want to know what worked well. We want to know what went wrong and, ideally, why," WHO Director-General Margaret Chan said of the three-day review process.

## ■AFRICA

Africa Region - A year after the purchases of vast swathes of farm land in Africa first drew public attention, transactions remain as opaque as ever. Private companies are resisting a global code of conduct that would ensure transparency and local elites continue to benefit from deals that encourage corruption and increase food insecurity.

MALAWI - Clinics dispel male circumcision myths - Male circumcision, which can reduce HIV among men by up to 60 percent, is controversial in Malawi and government has yet to implement mass male circumcision. But a chain of private clinics has rolled out the measure with some surprising results.

SOMALIA - Pirates target food, pushing up prices - Pirates operating off Somalia's coast have started targeting vessels operated by Somali businessmen and carrying food - something which is leading to higher food prices in Mogadishu, according to traders.

ZIMBABWE - Food insecurity threatens rural villages - The villagers of Nkalanje, in Zimbabwe's arid Matabeleland South Province, use bells tied around the necks of their livestock to track animals that roam ever greater distances in search of sparse tufts of grass as a dry spell tightens its grip in the already food insecure country.

## ■ASIA

PAKISTAN - More than 200,000 people have fled their homes in northern Pakistan as government forces pursue an offensive against Taliban fighters attempting to regroup in the Orakzai tribal region, the United Nations says. Pakistani forces have employed airstrikes to augment their ground-level battles and claim more than 300 Taliban have died during in recent weeks.

## ■MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA - Ray of hope for drought-affected farmers - While severe drought in eastern and northeastern Syria is seriously affecting lives and livelihoods, farmers may draw some hope and comfort from an irrigation success story in the central district of Salamieh.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - Some 50,000 vulnerable earthquake survivors in Haiti will relocate in the face of the looming rainy season, after U.S. and UN risk assessments at a number of temporary camps. A group of 7,500 people who have taken up makeshift shelters on a golf course will be moved to a new camp whose living conditions are minimal.

WFWO's Communications Team