



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

**UNITED NATIONS** - The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution Tuesday calling on individual countries to enact legislation to prosecute and jail piracy suspects and asking UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to examine possible prosecution options at the international level. Pirates continue to prowl waters off the Somali coast and extend their attack zone farther from shore despite the efforts of U.S. and EU joint naval patrols.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - The head of the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) said a global climate treaty was better than a range of small-scale agreements, but added it was unlikely a deal to combat global warming would be reached this year. Meanwhile, a group of developing countries, among the world's fastest-growing carbon emitters, said a legally binding global agreement to limit climate change must be completed by 2011 at the latest. Environment ministers of the so-called BASIC bloc - Brazil, South Africa, India and China - met in Cape Town on Sunday to look at how to fast-track such a deal to curb global warming. In Bolivia, at the close of the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, participants agreed to hold a world people's referendum on climate change in April next year.

**HEALTH** - A global pullback from AIDS funding may mean HIV could again become a death sentence for people in the developing world, a report showed. The International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC) found patients are being turned away from treatment programmes and AIDS drug stocks are running out, because of government budget cuts and flatlined funding from major donors like the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Another report said that barely a twentieth of the estimated \$3.2 billion needed is put into preventing drug users spreading the AIDS virus, and the shortfall is fuelling HIV epidemics in parts of Europe and Asia.

## ■AFRICA

**GHANA** - Police crackdown on migrant Fulani herdsmen - Security officials in Ghana are cracking down on migrant Fulani herdsmen, accusing them of rape, vandalism, destruction of farms and armed robbery, but conflict resolution specialists say the herdsmen are being manipulated and the government must abide by regional right-of-passage laws.

**NIGER** - Most NGOs and UN agencies in Niger agree that in 2010 humanitarian actors are better geared to respond to the food security crisis than they were in 2005, but some say there is a risk of repeating mistakes in coordination and leadership, information-sharing, planning appropriate responses, and raising funds more quickly.

**SOMALIA** - From refugee camp to university campus - They spent most of their lives in crowded refugee camps after their families fled violence in Somalia but now 22 men and six women have won scholarships to study in Canada.

## ■ASIA

**CHINA** - A choking sandstorm and heavy snow severed a vital air link to the remote quake-hit Chinese county of Yushu, severely affecting relief efforts, state media said. An earthquake earlier this month in Yushu, high on the Tibetan plateau in western Qinghai province, killed more than 2,000 people and left thousands more homeless in freezing temperatures.

**INDIA** - Up to one million people in eastern India are living out in the open after a tornado ripped through impoverished villages, flattening tens of thousands of homes, the United Nations and aid workers say. The nor'wester - a weather pattern that develops in the Bay of Bengal during the summer - struck the states of Bihar and West Bengal on April 13, killing 137 people. The United Nations, aid agencies and government officials say more than 200,000 houses have been fully or severely damaged by the storm, together with more than 15,000 hectares of mainly maize crop.

**PAKISTAN** - A shortfall in funding from international donors is jeopardising "essential life-saving" humanitarian operations in Pakistan, where more than three million people have been impacted by fighting between the army and militants, a coalition of aid agencies warned. The Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF), an association of 35 of the largest international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in the country - said dwindling funds were forcing aid groups to shut down or scale back vital water, sanitation and healthcare programmes, potentially affecting one million people.

## ■MIDDLE EAST

**YEMEN** - IDP food rations to be halved from May - The UNWFP will cut food rations to some 250,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Yemen by 50 percent from the beginning of May.

WFWO's Communications Team