



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke to Rwandan authorities Sunday and expressed satisfaction over their decision to continue participation in peacekeeping missions. Rwandan authorities threatened to pull the country's soldiers out of the joint UN-African mission in Darfur in response to a leaked UN report that accused Rwandan military forces of committing genocide in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

UNITED NATIONS - The incoming head of the new United Nations agency for women says she will primarily emphasize issues of domestic violence, abuse of women in areas of conflict zones and aspects of reproductive health (and related rights). Michelle Bachelet, the former president of Chile, says the problems encountered by women are universal, and that "the state cannot be neutral."

HIV/AIDS - A global shortage of funds for the fight against HIV means universal access to prevention, treatment and care is unlikely unless HIV programmes get better value for their investments, says a new report by UNAIDS, the UN Children's Fund and the UN World Health Organization.

HEALTH - Cancer now kills more people each year in low-income countries than malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis combined, and health researchers warn that the increasing caseload will soon overwhelm poor countries. By 2020, more than 70% of new cancer cases will be in the developing world, yet only 5% of global cancer resources are spent there. Public-awareness campaigns focused on prevention and treatment, trained medical providers and better access to drugs should be the cornerstones of a coordinated response, health experts say.

■AFRICA

BURUNDI / D.R. CONGO - The UN Refugee Agency will begin helping thousands of Burundian refugees living in the Democratic Republic of Congo and vice-versa to return home from 5 and 20 October respectively.

ZIMBABWE - Violence has marred the series of outreach meetings being held across Zimbabwe, where members of the Constitutional Parliamentary Select Committee come to hear what ordinary Zimbabweans want to be included in their new constitution.

■ASIA

BANGLADESH - The prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, is appealing for the United Nations to designate Bangla, a language reportedly spoken by more than 300 million people, as its seventh official language. Outside of Bangladesh, the tongue also is spoken in eastern and northeastern parts of India.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Caribbean Region - With a recent study warning that the Caribbean could lose six percent of its Gross Domestic Product annually to the ravages of climate change, some experts say that a combination of adaptation funding and risk pooling is the region's best hope for the future.

WFWO's Communications Team