

The United Nations Association of South Africa



ANNUAL REPORT

2005

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UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (UNA-SA)

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1. Executive Summary

The United Nations Association - South Africa (UNA-SA) was founded on United Nations Day, 24 October 2003. It is a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental organisation established in accordance with the Non-Profit Organisations Act of 1997. The UNA-SA has a provisional affiliation with the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), and is in the process of completing the formal steps of affiliation.

The aim of the UNA-SA is to mobilize support for the principles, goals and programmes of the United Nations. The UNA-SA encourages and facilitates research, organize conferences and initiate programmes related to South Africa's interface with the United Nations.

At the end of 2005, the UNA-SA had 546 individual paid-up members, organised in five chapters (Free State University, University of Pretoria, Rhodes University, University of Stellenbosch and North West University). Three more (University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape and the Polokwane campus of UNISA) were in the process of being established, and two new campuses (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and Walter Sisulu University) expressed an interest in establishing chapters in 2006. At the end of 2005 the UNA-SA thus had five established chapters, 3 chapters that were in the process of being founded and two chapters that were initiating the process of establishing a UNA-SA chapter.

During the course of 2005 the UNA-SA organised three major national initiatives, namely the Three Continents Film Festival Campus Tour, the MDG Challenge Competition and the WFUNA African Regional Model UN Conference.

The Association has hosted an Annual General Meeting on 9 September 2005, where a new 2005/2006 National Executive Committee was elected, and where the 2004/2005 audited financial statements were approved, in accordance with the constitution of the Association.

In 2006 the UNA-SA will focus on consolidating its national institutional framework, supporting existing chapters and establishing new chapters, expanding the membership base of the Association and building on the national initiatives, such as the 3CFF, the MDG Competition and the Model UN Conference, undertaken in 2005, so that they can be developed even further as vehicles for achieving the aims and objectives of the UNA-SA.

2. Introduction

The United Nations Association - South Africa (UNA-SA) was founded on United Nations Day, 24 October 2003, and the inaugural General Assembly meeting was held on 26 November 2003 at the University of the Western Cape.

The UNA-SA is a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental organisation established in accordance with the Non-Profit Organisations Act of 1997. The UNA-SA was registered by the Department of Social Welfare as a non-profit organisation on 9 March 2005 under registration number 083-500NPO.

The UNA-SA has a provisional affiliation with the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), and is in the process of completing the formal steps of affiliation. WFUNA is an independent, non-governmental organization with Category One Consultative Status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and consultative or liaison links with many other United Nations (UN) organizations and agencies. The World Federation was created in 1946 - one year after the establishment of the UN – and today it is a global network of hundreds of thousands of people linked together through United Nations Associations in over 109 member states of the UN, including 27 in Africa. The WFUNA network enables people to connect with each other on critical global issues affecting us all, from peace and human rights to the spread of democracy, equitable development, and international justice.

The aim of the UNA-SA is to mobilize support for the principles, goals and programmes of the United Nations. The UNA-SA encourages and facilitates research, organize conferences and initiate programmes related to South Africa's interface with the United Nations.

3. Membership

According to the financial and administrative records of the Association, the UNA-SA had 546 paid-up members at the time of the AGM on 9 September 2005. These members were organised in five chapters, and can be broken down per chapter as follows:

- i. Rhodes University – 226 members
- ii. Stellenbosch University – 180 members
- iii. North West University – 86 members
- iv. University of Pretoria – 37 members
- v. University of the Free State – 17 members

In 2004/2005 five chapters (Free State University, University of Pretoria, Rhodes University, University of Stellenbosch and North West University) have been established and three more (University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape and the Polokwane campus of UNISA) were in the process of being established. Two new campuses, that have expressed an interest in establishing chapters in 2006, were represented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of 9 September 2005, namely Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and Walter Sisulu University. At the end of 2005 the UNA-SA thus had five established chapters, 3 chapters that were in the process of being founded and two chapters that were initiating the process of establishing a UNA-SA chapter.

In 2006 the UNA-SA will focus on consolidating the establishment of these new chapters, as well as take steps to establish new chapters at other universities, such as in Durban at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and in Johannesburg at the University of Johannesburg and at the Wits University.

4. National Executive Committee

The following office bearers at national level were elected at the inaugural General Assembly of the UNA-SA on 26 November 2003:

President:	Nomvuyo Skota-Dayile
Vice-President:	Tahirih Mathee
Vice-President:	Dr. Edna van Harte
Secretary-General:	Cedric de Coning
Treasurer:	Zola Makosana

No AGM was held during the course of 2004 as the Association did not have sufficient funds to host such a gathering. However, during the course of the year the National Executive Committee underwent a couple of changes. Zola Makosana was no longer available as Treasurer and Prof Harold Herman was appointed as the new Treasurer. Dr Karen Smith was selected as an Additional Member and tasked with the coordination of the Three Continent Film Festival. Jenny Theron, the 20003/2004 chairperson of the Stellenbosch Chapter was selected as an Additional Member and tasked with coordinating the Chapters and assisting with the establishment of new chapters.

At the 9 September 2005 AGM a new National Executive Committee for the 2005/2006 term of office was elected, namely:

President:	Prof Harold Herman (UWC Chapter)
Vice-President	Tahirih Matthee (UWC Chapter)
Vice-President	Prof Peter Vale (Rhodes Chapter)
Secretary-General	Cedric de Coning (Stellenbosch Chapter)
Treasurer	Khadija Ameen (UCT Chapter)
Additional Member	Dr Karen Smith (Stellenbosch Chapter)
Additional Member	Raymond Steenkamp Fonseca (UCT Chapter)
WFUNA Youth	Monique Theron (Stellenbosch Chapter)

In Addition, the Chairperson of each Chapter is ex-officio on the National Executive Committee.

5. National Initiatives

Over and above the various projects undertaken by Chapters, three major national initiatives were undertaken in 2005, namely the Three Continents Film Festival Campus Tour, the MDG Challenge Competition and the WFUNA African Regional Model UN Conference.

a. Three Continents Film Festival Campus Tour

The UNA-SA partnered with the organisers of the Three Continents Film Festival (3CFF) to co-ordinate a national campus tour of the films screened during the 2004 3CFF. The partnership was based on the recognition that UNA-SA shares the 3CFF's goals, namely raising awareness of human rights related global challenges facing the developing world.

Additionally, it was felt that such collaboration would be mutually beneficial, as not only would the festival organisers get greater exposure for the films, but UNA-SA would be provided with an accessible medium through which to highlight some of the issues with which the organisation is concerned. The content of many of the films touched on issues addressed by the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, which were the focus of many of UNA-SA's 2005 projects.

Five UNA-SA campus-based chapters participated in the initiative, namely: Rhodes University, University of Pretoria, University of Stellenbosch, University of the Orange Free State and University of the Western Cape.

The campus tour took place between March and July 2005, and an estimated 500-600 people attended the screenings. At most campuses, the films were screened in the evening, over a three-day period. At Stellenbosch University, for example, the film festival was held in conjunction with the University's film society,

Pulp. This gave UNA-SA access to a community theatre, which was particularly well suited to screening the films. At Rhodes, the organisers used the opening night of the film festival to launch their chapter, which drew a large number of people, ensuring both interest in the work of UNA-SA and a captive audience for the films.

All the participating chapters expressed interest in hosting a similar event in 2006, and suggestions have already been made as to how the impact could be maximised. Some of the proposals include a more structured programme, with invited speakers and related discussions. In view of greater interaction between the three Western Cape universities (the Universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch and the Western Cape) joint screenings were also suggested. It is hoped that, given the diversity of the audience, this could result in particularly stimulating discussions. With a larger number of established chapters and improved planning, based on the lessons learnt in 2005, UNA-SA hopes to reach an even greater audience in 2006.

b. Millennium Development Goals Competition

In 2005, the UNA-SA, in partnership with the South African MDG Country Team and the UN Country Team, jointly launched a Millennium Development Goals Challenge Competition. The competition was funded through UNDP with a grant from the Government of New Zealand. The goal of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Challenge Competition was to promote awareness of the MDG among students and staff at South African Universities, and the public at large. The objectives of the MDG Challenge Competition were:

1. To develop a higher level of understanding and insight into the MDGs and the challenges involved in achieving the MDGs in South Africa among students and staff at South African Universities,
2. To generate interest for further research into the MDGs and how they can be achieved,
3. To develop policy options for the implementation of the MDGs in South Africa, and to put these options in the public domain for debate and discussion, and
4. To generate a report that can feed into the national civil society dialogue on the MDG in South Africa and the MDG Report for South Africa.

Seven multi-disciplinary research teams each generated an optimal strategy for achieving the MDGs in South Africa by 2015. The teams were from the University of Venda, University of Pretoria, Rhodes University, Walter Sisulu University and the University of Stellenbosch (See annexure III). Each team had approximately five months, between March and July 2005, to develop their MDG country strategies. In May/June 2005 each team had to present their draft country strategy to their local community in the form of a MDG Community Workshop. The teams presented their MDG country strategies at a South African MDG 2015 Strategy Seminar on 9 September 2005 in Stellenbosch, alongside the WFUNA African Regional Model UN Conference. A panel of judges selected the winning strategy and on 11 September 2005 the winning team, the Stellenbosch team led by Mikhaila Cupido, was announced. All the competing MDG country strategies will be published in an edited

volume in 2006 and the winning team had an opportunity to travel to New York in December 2005 where they presented their winning strategy at the United Nations. The winning team will also have the opportunity to present their MDG country strategy to the South African MDG Country Team at the annual UN Country Team Retreat at the end of February 2006.

c. WFUNA African Regional Model United Nations Conference

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the United Nations in 2005, the United Nations Association of South Africa (UNA-SA) hosted a World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) African Regional Model United Nations Conference (ARMUN) from 5 to 8 September 2005 at the University of Stellenbosch. The ARMUN Conference attracted the participation of 100 university students from more than 25 countries and 4 continents. Together with the African UNA delegates and the organizing committee there were 150 participants involved in the various ARMUN activities.

The overall aim of the WFUNA African Regional Model UN Conference was to promote awareness of the Millennium Development Goals among students and staff at African Universities, and the public at large. Amongst others, the Conference was intended to have a positive, peaceful and stimulating impact on governments and the different sectors of civil society in Africa and beyond. The Conference was designed to achieve these aims and objectives through the sharing of information on the MDGs, by stimulating the development of networks among participants, through the learning experience of individual participants and as a result of the collective knowledge gained of international cooperation through forums such as the United Nations and the African Union.

The ARMUN Conference was a simulation of the High-Level Meeting of the 60th Session of the General Assembly (GA), otherwise known as the Millennium Review or World Summit that took place just one-week before the 'real' World Summit took place in New York. The ARMUN Conference achieved its goal to produce a UN General Assembly Resolution that identified the 10 most important steps that the youth feels need to be taken by the international community to achieve the MDGs in Africa by 2015. Some of the main issues discussed during the simulation and addressed in the ARMUN Final Resolution were: Peace and Security on the African Continent, Debt Relief, The Empowerment of Women, Official Development Assistance, UN Reform, HIV/AIDS and Malaria, Education. WFUNA submitted the ARMUN Final Resolution to the President of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary General and Member States so that they could take note of the collective priorities identified by the student participants that gathered together in Stellenbosch.

Feedback from delegates after the ARMUN Conference proved that this was an enriching experience for all the students. The four day simulation demonstrated to the delegates the difficulties that bodies such as the UN General Assembly and the African Union faces, in effective policy making. Not only did the delegates get the opportunity to interact with people from different cultures and religions, but they formed new friendships and networks that could be the basis for many future projects

and cultural exchanges. The students who participated in the ARMUN simulation now have more comprehension of the diversity of the African continent and the problems that face our world. Hopefully this experience has inspired them all to become more active global citizens and to engage with the MDGs in their respective communities, and to execute exciting follow-up projects.

From the outset the ARMUN Conference was planned not to be a once-off event. All the participants are expected to organize follow-up projects in their home communities in association with their own national UN Associations, where they exist, within six months after the ARMUN Conference. The follow-up projects can be small Model UN sessions, MDG awareness raising projects, research projects, or any other initiative that advance our common objectives. UNA-SA, together with WFUNA Youth, continues to engage with and support the ARMUN delegates to assist them with realizing this goal.

The UNA-SA also used the opportunity created by the WFUNA ARMUN Conference to host two related events. The first was a workshop for African UN Associations aimed at strengthening African regional and national networks and the second was the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Challenge Seminar reported above.

The WFUNA ARMUN Conference attracted considerable media attention (refer to the ARMUN Report attached as Annexure II for a detailed media report) in Africa and South Africa and this further contributed to the achievement of the objectives of the conference of raising awareness of the MDGs far beyond the participants that attended the Conference.

In 2006 the UNA-SA Rhodes Chapter will organise a follow-up event in the form of a national (inter-varsity type) model UN competition for South African universities. Although this will be a national event, visiting MUN teams from African universities will be welcome to participate.

6. Finances

The UNA-SA Financial Year ends on 28 February 2005, and the audited statements accompanying this report are thus for the 2004/2005 Financial Year ending on 28 February 2005. The sole revenue of the Association over the 2004/2005 Financial Year was its membership dues. The UNA-SA has an annual membership fee of R50 and a student membership fee of R25, but individual chapters are allowed to adjust their membership fees according to the prevalent culture at their universities. Membership fees are paid to and managed at the chapter level, and 25% of each member's dues are paid over by the chapter to the national office and goes towards the day-to-day management of the organization at national level, affiliation with WFUNA, the organisation of the AGM and the auditing of financial statements.

The National Executive Committee is responsible for this portion of the Association's finances, and it is this portion of the Association's finances that are audited by the UNA-SA. The financial management of the chapters are subject to the financial rules and arrangements of the universities where they are registered to operate as student

associations and those chapters that have accounts at the university will be audited as part of the university's annual audit procedures.

During the 2004/2005 Financial Year, the UNA-SA had very few financial obligations and the Association's account rarely, if ever, exceeded a monthly balance of R 5,000.00. For instance, the closing balance of the Association's bank account on 30 July 2005 stood at R 4124.14.

The funds raised for the WFUNA African Model UN Conference was managed in a separate ARMUN project account established for this purpose at the University of Stellenbosch. It will be audited as part of the overall audit procedures of the University of Stellenbosch. A balance of R 60266.00 was left over in this ARMUN project account after all obligations have been met, and this amount has been transferred to the national account of the UNA-SA in February 2006 and will be reflected in the 2005/2006 Financial Report.

The 9 September 2005 AGM adopted the Financial Statements for the Year ending 28 February 2005 and took a decision that the UNA-SA should pay its affiliation dues to the World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA) as soon as possible. The dues for 2005 amount to US\$ 283.00 and will be paid over to WFUNA in February 2006. As such, it will be reflected in the 2005/2005 Financial Report.

7. Conclusion

When looking back on 2005, one can probably regard the past year as the first truly operational year of the United Nations Association of South Africa. The UNA-SA managed to establish five chapters with 546 individual paid-up members, with five more chapters in various stages of being established.

The UNA-SA also organised three national initiatives of which one was an international event in the form of hosting the WFUNA African Regional Model UN Conference. These events gave the UNA-SA the opportunity to enter into partnerships with the South African Government, the UN Country Team and various other civil society organisations which assisted the UNA-SA with establishing itself as a credible partner for these stakeholders in the context of the interface between South Africa and the United Nations.

The Association has hosted an Annual General Meeting on 9 September 2005, where a new 2005/2006 National Executive Committee was elected, and where the 2004/2005 audited financial statements were approved, in accordance with the constitution of the Association.

In 2006 the UNA-SA will focus on consolidating its national institutional framework, supporting existing chapters and establishing new chapters, expanding the membership base of the Association and building on the national initiatives, such as the 3CFF, the MDG Competition and the Model UN Conference, so that they can be developed even further as vehicles for achieving the aims and objectives of the UNA-SA.

Declaration of Approval as Official 2005 Annual Report of the UNA-SA

Approved as the 2005 Annual Report of the United Nations Association of South Africa at the National Executive Committee meeting held on 15 February 2006 at the National Office of the Association at the University of the Western Cape.

Prof Harold Herman
President

Mr Cedric de Coning
Secretary-General