



DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD

Second Secretary-General, United Nations

"Recent developments in technology have brought home the dangers of the nuclear and space age as well as the advantages of the conquest of distance. [...] These developments have given the United Nations heavier responsibilities, as also greater opportunities to serve as a force for peace. In this context, the work of the World Federation in undertaking studies, organizing seminars and convening meetings is becoming increasingly important to people everywhere. The UN Secretariat has been happy to join forces with you in some of these educational programs. This year I have noted with particular interest the important regional seminars held by WFUNA in the South Pacific area and in West Africa on teaching about the United Nations, as well as the summer school related to the Food and Agriculture Organization's Freedom-From-Hunger Campaign held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in July."

- Excerpt from his speech to WFUNA's 16th Plenary Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1961

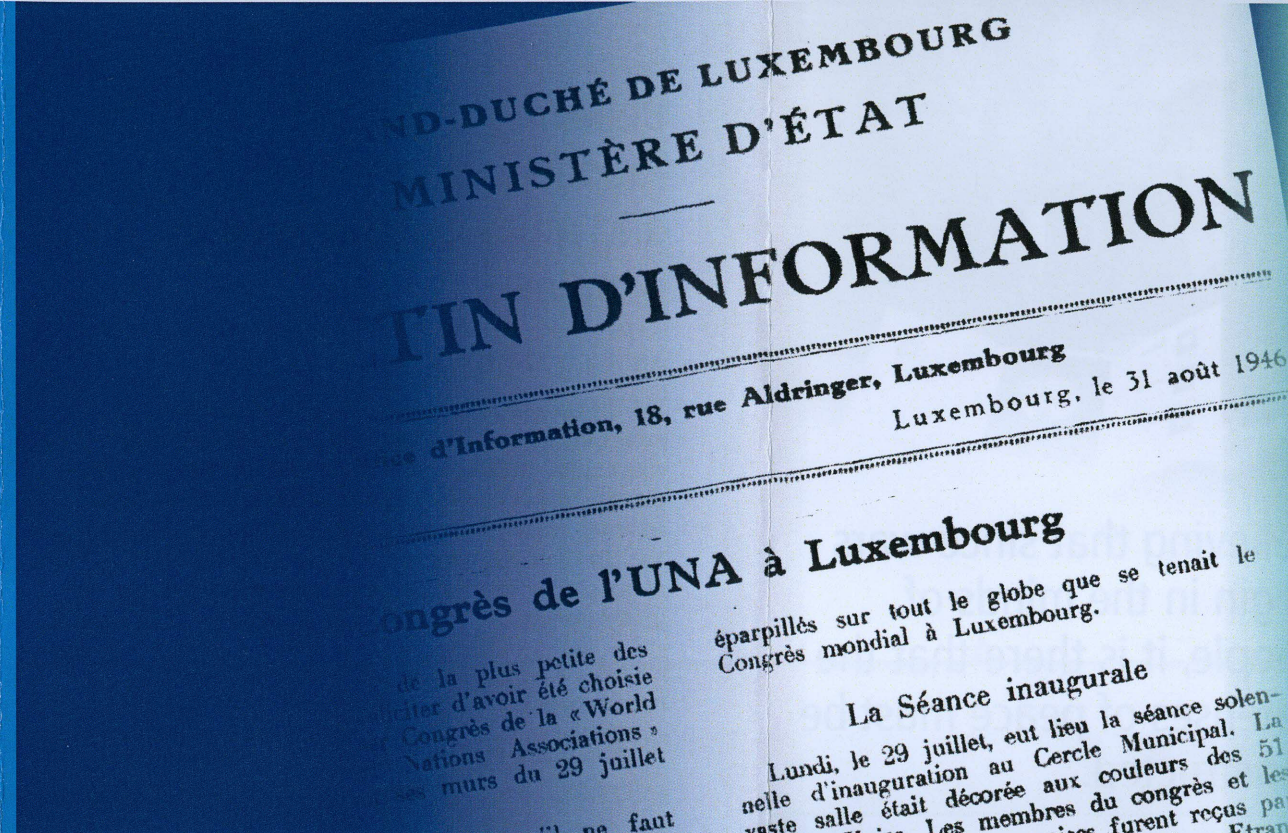
BAN KI MOON

Secretary-General, United Nations



"I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to the World Federation of United Nations Associations as you mark your 70th anniversary. Thank you for helping advance the UN mission and UN values. Over the last 10 years, I have seen the difference you make around the world. Your engagement is educating and empowering global citizens, your inspiration is building a better world. I also salute your strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including your efforts to ensure a goal to build more peaceful societies. Once again, thank you for your enduring support for the United Nations, you are among our strongest allies and advocates in communities around the globe. Let us keep partnering together for a people-centered, planet-friendly future, leaving no one behind."

- Message for WFUNA's 70th Anniversary, August 2, 2016



70 YEARS OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL CITIZENS FOR A STRONGER UN

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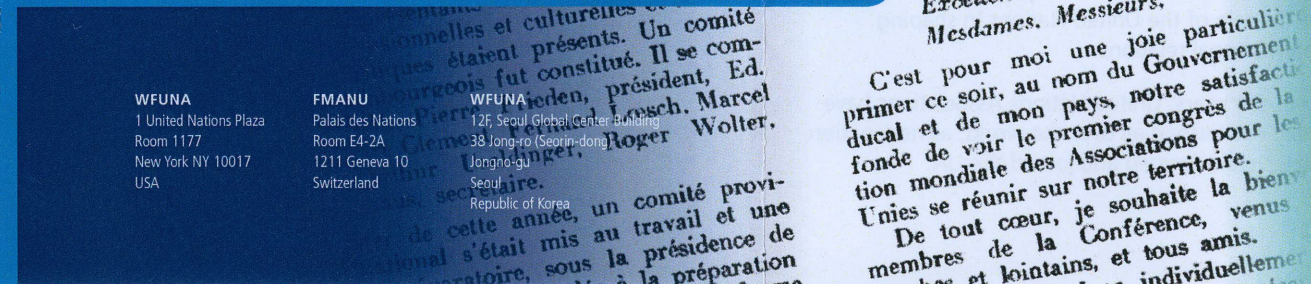
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Believing that since wars begin in the minds of people, it is there that the defenses of peace must be constructed...

THE WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS

The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) was founded in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on 2 August 1946 by 22 United Nations Associations (UNAs). This was one year after the UN Charter was proclaimed with the opening words "We the peoples of the United Nations". Ever since, WFUNA has been the only global organization with the primary mission of supporting the principles and purposes of the United Nations.

WFUNA's founders had extensive experience in international cooperation and were aware of the fundamental importance of public understanding of the role of the United Nations in shaping international relations.

Over the years, United Nations Associations have been established all over the world, as new nation states were formed and joined the UN.

Believing that peace must be founded upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of all peoples...

AN ASSOCIATION OF THE PEOPLES

The UN General Assembly has adopted resolutions expressing appreciation for WFUNA's efforts to promote wider public support of the UN. In 1986 resolution 41/68 concerning questions relating to information dedicated an entire section to commending the efforts of WFUNA and UNAs around the world for their 'mobilization of popular support for the programs and work of the United Nations'.

In practical terms, WFUNA played a crucial role by helping people in those countries where human rights were violated, such as Franco's Spain, some of the former communist countries in Eastern Europe and in the Middle East. WFUNA brought together people of divided countries – such as East and West Germany and Cyprus, and the opponents in conflicts, for example between Israel and Egypt in the late 1960's.

WFUNA helped promote 'Security and Co-operation in Europe' (CSCE) by holding in 1967 the first conference on this topic. Other NGOs followed WFUNA's campaign which continued until 1975 when the Final Act was signed in Helsinki by 35 governments, establishing the CSCE process.

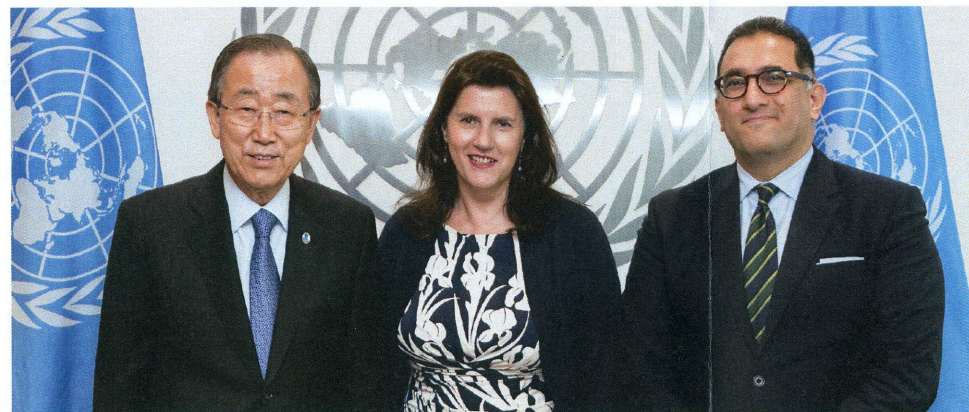
WFUNA, including its African UNA members, made significant contributions to the NGO campaign for the abolition of Apartheid. The 32nd General Assembly of the United Nations, in 1977, received a resolution from the 117th WFUNA Executive Committee meeting, requesting the Security Council take steps to ensure South Africa and Rhodesia were not provided weapons of war.

WFUNA facilitated high-level informal consultations on disarmament issues between key experts of the USA and USSR during the Cold War. It organized a number of NGO Seminars on Disarmament in cooperation with the UN, UNESCO and other NGOs.

GLOBAL CITIZENS FOR A STRONGER UN

During its history, WFUNA has served as a forum for global dialogues on development. Several suggestions, like the establishment of an Economic Commission for Africa, were first adopted at WFUNA Plenary Assemblies and then endorsed by governments. In 2015, UNAs around the world embraced the 2030 Agenda, and gave the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) a high priority on their agendas.

WFUNA has actively supported reform of the UN and its capacity to meet new tasks and challenges. In 2016, it launched historic Security Council Election Debates with candidates competing for non-permanent seats.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) meets with Sylvie Lucas (centre), Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the UN; and Bonian Golmohammadi, Secretary-General of WFUNA, on the 70th anniversary of WFUNA, which was founded in Luxembourg on 2 August 1946.

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