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NEWS**Two International Conferences Meet in New York**

By Adam Braun

World leaders gathered in New York in September to participate in two major international conferences. On September 14, the United Nations convened its annual World Summit, which met on occasion of the annual plenary meeting of the General Assembly.¹ At the same time, former President William Jefferson Clinton convened the Clinton Global Initiative, a meeting designed to bring together leaders from the private and public sectors to address international issues.²

One major development of the United Nations World Summit was the creation of a Peacebuilding Commission. Supporters of this commission note that its plans to create a standing monetary fund and support staff for peacekeeping missions and to expand the police keeping capacities of United Nations peacekeepers on the ground will separate peacekeeping operations from the institutional bureaucracy which currently plagues the United Nations.³

A second concrete step taken during the summit was an agreement among participants designed to prevent the spread of genocide. Under the "Responsibility to Protect" principle, each government accepts responsibility to prevent the occurrence of future genocides.⁴ In the past many governments were unwilling to intervene in ongoing genocide due to reluctance to interfere with another state's sovereignty.⁵ However, the principle agreed to at the Summit explicitly commits nations to intervene when civilian populations are subjected to genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.⁶

Other items on the Summit agenda did not see such substantive steps taken. For example, little action was taken in areas of international aid and development, fighting terrorism or in human rights. Before the Summit, some observers hoped that the Summit would produce a permanent council to replace the ineffective Commission on Human Rights.

However, participants were unable to agree on who should sit on such a council or even how such a council would be selected.⁷

Similar inaction marked the fight against terrorism. While the body agreed to condemn terrorism "in all its forms" it was unable to reach an agreement on what constitutes "terrorism."⁸

Finally, in the area of international development, a proposal in which the world's richest nations would dedicate 0.7 percent of its gross national income to development assistance was rejected.⁹

While many in the international law community remain hopeful that the Peacebuilding Commission and "Responsibility to Protect" principle will lead to positive results, others are concerned that these projects will find a fate similar to the failed actions on development, terror and human rights. Captain Thaddeus A. Hoffmeister (USAR), a Judge Advocate General and current

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The UN World Summit met with mixed results on such issues as terrorism, poverty, and international peacekeeping

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Legislative Director to a Democratic Congressman expressed such concerns. He said, "Because of the United Nations' multi-layered bureaucracy and unyielding size many of its well intentioned ideas and programs are never actually implemented."¹⁰

According to Hoffmeister, the size of the United Nations requires larger countries to take a leadership role for any substantial progress, and, to date, none have stepped forward. Without the leadership of a country such as the United States, "the United Nations has difficulty implementing large scale projects without the backing of a major player."¹¹

Unlike other international conferences, participants in the Clinton Global Initiative were required to take concrete steps towards poverty alleviation, religious and ethnic reconciliation, climate change or enterprise and investment development. At the end of the three day meeting, pledges made by participants totaled approximately \$1.25 billion.¹² Starbucks pledged to work with the African Wildlife Foundation and Conservation International to dramatically increase the proportion of coffee beans which are grown through equitable partnerships and environmentally friendly methods.¹³ The BBC and Reuters agreed to work together to implement legal frameworks which will support pluralistic media environments. The Open Society Institute committed to creating democratic and legal accountability in nations rich in natural resources.¹⁴

¹ United Nations, *2005 World Summit Outcome Fact Sheet*, http://www.un.org/summit2005/presskit/fact_sheet.prg (last visited Mar. 6, 2005).

² Clinton Global Initiative, *Message From President Clinton*, http://www.clintonglobalinitiative.org/home.nsf/pt_message_from_wjc. (last visited Mar. 6, 2005).

³ United Nations, *supra* at note 1.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Oxford Analytica, *Reform Summit Fails To Deliver*, FORBES (Sept. 21, 2005), available at http://www.forbes.com/business/2005/09/20/annan-bolton-unreforms-cx_0921oxan_unsummit.html.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Email interview with Captain Thaddeus A. Hoffmeister, Legislative Director for Representative Bob Filner (D-CA) (Oct. 11, 2005).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Clinton Global Initiative, *supra* note 2.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

(Mercury Emissions, continued from page 2)

¹² Bruce Geiselmand, *A setback for states; Appeals court won't grant temporary stay for mercury rule*, WASTE NEWS, Aug. 15, 2005, at 3.

¹³ New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety News Release, *supra* note 2, at 2.

¹⁴ Bruce Geiselmand, *supra* note 12, at 3.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety News Release, *supra* note 2, at 2.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

(AZT Patent, continued from page 5)

⁸ AIDS Healthcare Foundation's Federal Lawsuit Against British Drug Giant GlaxoSmithKline Over Patent Piracy on AIDS Drug AZT to Move Forward: Federal Court Rejects GSK Motion to Dismiss AZT Patent Lawsuit, PR Newswire (July 25, 2003), <http://www.aegis.org/news/pr/2003/PR030754.html>.

⁹ GSK Loses Another Key Round, *supra* note 7.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Martin Walker, *AZT: An AIDS Defining Drug*, June/July 1997, <http://www.virusmyths.net/aids/data/mwazbiz.htm>.

¹² GSK Loses Another Key Round, *supra* note 7.

¹³ AIDS Healthcare Foundation's Anti-trust Complaint Amended to Include GSK's Blockbuster AIDS Drug Combivir & Trizivir. *Fraud During Patent Process Used to Procure Invalid Patents on AZT and Other Subsequent HIV Drugs* (Oct. 15, 2002), http://www.aidshealth.org/newsroom/press/press_archive/PR101502.htm.

¹⁴ *Access to Medicines in Underserved Markets: What are the Implications of Changes in Intellectual Property Rights, Trade and Drug Registration Policy?* A DFID HRSC Overview Paper (Sept. 2004), <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/dfidsynthesispaper.pdf>.

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