



## LAW campaign

## ANNUAL UN DAY CELEBRATIONS

## Global problems demand global solutions

THE world is moving in favour of the United Nations but the Organization must strengthen its ability to produce results in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his message to mark UN Day, 24 October 2007. From the

national flag-raising ceremony as part of a series of events to observe the Day.

Professors and students at Kabul University in Afghanistan held a question-and-answer session about the role of the UN in which the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative Christopher Alexander partici-

the UN to maintain its rightful place on the world stage, continuing reform was necessary.

"But we the Member States also have to do our share," he said. "We need to have the political will to empower the UN to take action as can and should be done in the year ahead to foster peace and development, regardless of any recent setbacks. In Sudan, a televised debate was held to discuss the UN and climate change, the theme of this year's Day, while in Kenya more than 500 people attended a ceremony awarding the "UN in Kenya Person of the Year" to Abbas Gullet, Secretary-General of Kenya Red Cross Society.

In Vienna, the UN Information Service (UNIS) in the Austrian capital organized a student forum bringing together more than 80 students from universities in Austria and Slovakia. Classical music concerts were also held tonight in both Geneva and New York. In the Swiss city, Luigi Cherubini and Maurice Ravel performed at Victoria Hall, while the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra performed at the General Assembly Hall in New York.

In his first UN Day message as Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon said that "More people and governments understand that a multilateralism is the only path in our interdependent and globalizing world," and "Global problems demand global solutions and going it alone is not a viable option." He stressed that the demands on the UN were "growing every day," and warned that "we will be judged in the future on the actions we take today on results."

The UN Country Team in Myanmar issued its own statement saying the Day should serve as an opportunity to "reflect on the importance of ensuring development, prosperity, peace, security and dignity for all" and stressing that all peoples deserve to have these rights and freedoms. "In Myanmar, the peaceful demonstrations that followed the sudden hike in fuel prices on 15 August highlighted that many of these aspirations are not yet a reality for the people here," the statement

noted.

Tamrat Samuel, the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative in Nepal, said UN Day should be used in the Asian country as a time to reflect on what can and should be done in the year ahead to foster peace and development, regardless of any recent setbacks.

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