



WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS
FEDERATION MONDIALE DES ASSOCIATIONS POUR LES NATIONS UNIES

A peoples' movement for the United Nations

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**Leadership Shifts in Global NGO:
The World Federation of United Nations Associations
Canada now represented on leadership team**

New York: At a Plenary meeting in Seoul, Republic of South Korea (ROK) last week, the delegates from 49 countries, representing the leading global voice for an efficient, effective and strong United Nations in their countries, selected new leadership.

Dr. Hans Blix, the outgoing President and former chief UN Weapons Inspector, urged the organization to continue its important work in both “supporting and challenging” the UN. Blix maintained the pivotal role of the UN – and of WFUNA - in bringing together states and citizens with different views in addressing the pressing global issues.

Blix ended his three year term with the handover to **Park Soo-Gil**, a distinguished South Korean diplomat who served as his country’s Permanent Representative to the UN and as Chief Representative of the ROK to the UN Security Council, including a term as President of the Security Council.

The Executive Committee elected **Kathryn White** from the UNA-Canada as its Chair. White holds the position of Executive Director of UNA-Canada and is a specialist in international risk management and has written widely on the role of civil society in global health pandemics, in peace-building and in community- and state-building.

The Secretariat of WFUNA, located in New York and Geneva, will now be headed by **Bonian Golmohammadi**, who leaves his position as head of UNA-Sweden to take on this key leadership role.

In addressing the Plenary in his hometown of Seoul, United Nations Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** called for a “compassionate multilateralism”. He saluted WFUNA’s “leadership, example and voice” in “educating, enlightening and promoting a strong United Nations for a better world.”

There are over 100 United Nations Associations around the world reaching to hundreds of millions of citizens through their work. Officials of various UNAs debated issues, including climate change and the coming Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to be held in Copenhagen in December, as well as urgent global situations. The theme of the Plenary was “Global Citizens for the United Nations”.

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