

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Iowa Division

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RECHARGING HOPE: An Update on Deep Sea Mining and the **Nascent Battery Industry**

> Jane Shuttleworth Iowa UNA Board Member Advocacy Committee Member

In the first article in this series, "Batteries, Oceans and the International Seabed Authority, Oh my," we learned how a lesser-known UN affiliated agency the International Seabed Authority (ISA) - is at the center of international debate around an emerging new industry of deep sea mining. Under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UN-CLOS), the ISA is mandated to manage the region of the world's oceans outside the jurisdiction of coastal nations - known as "the Area"—for the benefit and the common heritage of mankind. This relatively tiny agency is disproportionate in size to the area of its jurisdiction: the Area includes 54% of the world's oceans and its deepest parts. The ocean floor holds both unique and enriched forms of minerals found and the Need to Protect the Rights on land. Ecologically, the deep ocean is the largest habitat for life on earth and the most difficult to access and study.

Even though deep-sea mining has not been considered economically or technologically feasible until recently, the ISA has been developing sea floor mining rules for decades. During this same period, the deep ocean has become a major ecological research frontier. Findings such as its significance in global carbon cycles and the discovery of greater habitat complexity and biodiversity than once thought have challenged traditionally held ecological paradigms leading to concerns regarding the impacts of seabed mining on deep sea habitats and global biosphere functioning. Leaders of the scientific, international, and even business communities have called for a moratorium, if not an outright ban, on mining the sea floor, and for an extension of the definition of the deep ocean as the "common heritage of mankind" to go beyond the value of its mineral resources to include its ecological and biogeochemical services.

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Changing U.S. Immigration Policies of Asylum-Seekers and Refugees



Caryl Lyons Iowa UNA Board Member Advocacy Committee Member

American policies for immigrants and refugees keep evolving. Worldwide, as of June, 2022, there were approximately 27.1 million refugees, as well as 53.2 internally displaced persons. (For more statistics, see the UN Refugee Agency website here.) In the United States, there has been a shift in the demographics of arriving migrants at our southern border. Since summer 2021, available data showed a dramatic increase in migrant arrivals fleeing Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Colombia with a relative decrease in arrivals from more traditional sending countries like Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." Some U.S. policies help to further that goal, while others do not.

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Advocacy News is Still Going Green

In alignment with our commitment to sustainability, Iowa UNA is prioritizing the electronic distribution of our advocacy newsletter. We will distribute Advocacy News via email and also will publish it on our website and social media platforms. If you prefer to receive a hard copy, please email debra@unaiowa.org

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When we last left off, the tiny Pacific Island nation of Nauru had stunned ISA members and global observers alike in July 2021 when it requested approval for deep sea mining plans in sponsorship with The Metals Company (TMC), a Canadian firm, by triggering an obscure clause in the UNCLOS known as "the two-year rule". This rule effectively mandates that the ISA submit mining permits within two years notification, regardless of completion of the mining code. Then, in October 2022 the TMC's Hidden Gem— <u>a 228-me-</u> ter drill ship redesigned into a deep sea mining vessel—pulled out of port in Monterrey Mexico towards the Clarion Clipperton Zone in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, considered to be home to the most abundant polymetallic nodule deposits discovered to date. The vessel's departure took place amidst surprise and controversy: many accused the ISA of a lack of transparency in issuing this historic permit for first pilot mining trial, especially when the ISA announcement of the permit approval came days after TMC's press release.

The Debate Continues

Since then, the pattern of protest and progress on mining rules has continued. The Hidden Gem returned to port last November, greeted by Green Peace and oth-



er protesters, after completing its \$250 million trial mining mission. Then, in March of this year, Lockheed Martin—considered the biggest corporate investor in deep sea mining—<u>announced its</u> <u>exit</u> of the nascent industry just as the ISA initiated its 28th session in Kingston, Jamaica.

This April, the ISA announced it will be taking applications for mining, although the rules are still being drafted. The ISA will meet again in July under deadline for approving regulations. Read more here.

What Can We Do? "Exciting Stuff!"

Whether one is for or against deep sea mining, it is encouraging to keep in mind that today we have in place global institutions and treaties like the UN, the ISA and UNCLOS that were unthinkable only a century ago when the British explorer ship HMS Challenger first discovered polymetallic nodules in the Atlantic Ocean. Furthermore, through the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world today also has a common language, framework and set of aspirational goals to guide us towards a more sustainable and equitable future. The SDGs are also a driving force for envisioning and innovating towards a decarbonized future, including the ethical and environmental dimensions of battery production. For example the European Union (EU) - in anticipation of at least <u>30 million</u> zero-emission electric vehicles on EU roads by 2030- is already mandating a circular battery economy. In a report adopted on 10 March, the EU Parliament said new rules should cover the entire battery product life cycle, from design to consumption and all the way to recycling into new products. The proposal is linked to the EU's circular economy action plan and the EU's industrial strategy.

While here in the United States we do not have similar laws mandating a circular battery economy, investors are already exploring EV battery reuse options and domestic car carriers are already contracting with battery recycling companies to repower and NOT YOURS TO DESTROY!

recycle batteries. According to Iowa City EV Coordinator Sarah Gardner, "The great thing about EV (electric vehicle) batteries is that they are a prime candidate for reuse - which is more environmentally friendly than recycling because the batteries generally outlive the car with about 70% of their capacity still functional." She says batteries can be grouped together and used for things like back-up storage for solar arrays or grouped in cargo containers that can be deployed for emergency power following a natural disaster. Additionally she says there is high demand for battery reuse and recycling services, and many start-ups are beginning to operate in this space. As Sarah says, "Very exciting stuff!

Another step we can all take is to reduce the number of battery hungry gadgets in our lives and take full advantage of battery recycling opportunities. To find out where to recycle household batteries and other household hazardous waste, visit the EPA website at <u>this link</u>.

International Women's Day: Advocating for Women's Rights and Equality



Debra DeLaet

Executive Director, Iowa United Nations Association

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day observed on March 8 each year. The history of IWD, <u>creat-</u> ed in the early 20th century as part of various women's movements demanding political and economic rights, precedes the creation of the UN system. Historically, the IWD movement helped mobilize support for numerous transnational advocacy campaigns, including activism for women's right to work and improved working conditions, the right to vote and hold public office, and to end discrimination against women globally. IWD also has been associated with <u>international women's peace</u> movements.

Since 1975, the United Nations has recognized International Women's Days as one of its <u>international days</u> <u>of observances</u>. The UN relies on IWD to raise awareness about women's achievements and equality, to educate the public about global issues affecting women's equality and advancement, and to mobilize political will and resources to support initiatives for global gender equity. The international community observes IWD on a single day, but the initiative involves ongoing education and advocacy on women's rights and gender equality throughout the year.

A great deal of progress has been made since IWD was created in the early 1900s. The women's movements that established IWD were focused on securing basic economic and political equality, including the right to work and right to vote. Although these basic rights have been secured in many places, the evidence of global gender inequality indicates that much work remains to be done. UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 commits to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls by 2030. Available evidence indicates that extensive global efforts will be required to make headway on the SDG 5 targets.

Violence and discrimination against women remain pervasive global problems and are entrenched in numerous laws, policies, and cultural norms in countries in every region of the world. The <u>UN Foundation</u> and the

#EqualEverywhere campaign jointly produced a report that provides a snapshot of global gender inequality. The report identifies egregious examples of ongoing legal and social discrimination against women. 18 countries have laws on the books that require married women to obey their husbands. Women disproportionately contribute to unpaid care work in every country in the world. Discriminatory family laws provide inequitable rights to women in areas related to marriage, divorce, and custody. Almost 40% of countries legally allow marriage for girls under the age of eighteen. A child's citizenship can only be determined by the fathers in 25 countries. Over 40 countries maintain discriminatory laws governing inheritance rights for daughters versus sons. Countries in every region of the world limit women and girls' access to contraception and sexual and reproductive health care. Most girls in the world have not achieved gender parity in access to education. In the legal realm, wom-



en's testimony does not carry the same legal weight as men's in numerous countries. A wide range of discriminatory policies limit women's economic opportunities, including financial restrictions limiting women's access to loans, exclusions from employment in particular jobs, and the failure to provide equal pay for equal work. According to the World Health Organization approximately one-third of the world's women have experienced or will experience gender-based violence within their lifetime, a problem exacerbated by the fact that a significant number of countries do not have laws addressing domestic violence. Even in countries with laws prohibiting violence against women, gender discrimination leads to uneven prosecution and impedes the effective enforcement of these laws by governments. Violence against transgender women is an especially acute problem. In general, people who are transgender experience higher rates of gender-based and all forms of violence, with trans women of color at greatest risk.

IWD provides us with an excellent opportunity to commit to working for women's equality and gender equity. There are numerous actions we can take to advocate for women's equality. You can expand your knowledge of gender equity by exploring the 2023 campaign theme, #EmbraceEquity.The United States still has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Urge your elected representatives to ratify CEDAW here. You also can urge your representatives to stop human trafficking, a threat that targets an estimated 40 million people, mostly women and girls, by completing this online petition. You also can join the UNITE by 2030 to End Violence Against Women campaign. You also can join the **#EqualEverywhere** campaign to fight for full equality for girls and women across the globe. You can donate to female-focused charities.

However you choose to support the cause, thank you for your advocacy on behalf of women's rights and equality on International Women's Day and everyday.

Resources to Support Refugees in Iowa

Johnson County Refugee Alliance IC Compassion (Iowa City)

Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa (Des Moines) UNHCR: United Nations Refugee Agency

<u>Central Iowa Volunteer Hub</u> (Des Moines)

Catherine McAuley Center (Cedar Rapids)

Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice (Des Moines)

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Some refugees are welcomed through <u>humanitarian parole</u>, whereby refugees at high risk in their home countries can bypass lengthy visa or asylum processes and requirements; however, the amount of time they can remain here is limited, generally to around two years, and their status doesn't grant permanent residency or provide a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

People who worked for or on behalf of the U.S. government, as in Afghanistan, may receive <u>special immigrant</u> <u>visas</u> that automatically grant them permanent residency. Refugees from certain countries may receive <u>temporary</u> <u>protected status</u> (TPS), a program for migrants who are unable to return home safely, with the key word being "temporary." At this point, refugees that enter through TPS are not on a path to citizenship. Refugees from 16 countries are currently eligible for TPS, including (just since 2021) Burma, Somalia, Venezuela, Cameroon, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Ethiopia. Find more information <u>here</u>.

Some of the Recent Changes to U.S. and Iowa Refugee Policies:

Ninety percent of the 86,000 Afghan refugees have come here under humanitarian parole, but as of September 2022, the U.S. has been shifting away from using this program toward using programs intended to provide for more permanent residence. Read more <u>here</u>.

On October 31, 2022, DHS's final rule to preserve DACA went into effect. The final rule's implementation means that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program is now based on a formal regulation, thereby preserving and fortifying the program while it remains the subject of litigation in court. Read <u>more</u>.

In January 2023 the Biden Administration announced the Welcome Corps, a new program that allows groups of five or more Americans to sponsor refugees vetted by the US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) and to help them permanently resettle in their communities. Read more <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.

Also in January 2023, the Iowa Health and Human Services Administration announced significant organizational changes to better ensure refugees in Iowa have the supports they need to succeed, including release of a Request for Proposals seeking ethnic, community or faith-based organizations to provide critical wraparound supports and services to refugees in Iowa. Read more <u>here</u>.

In February, 2023, some changes affecting asylum seekers at our southern border were suggested. Like an earlier plan under the previous administration, this will limit asylum access for asylum seekers who have not applied for asylum protections in countries they pass through enroute to the U.S. Here is more <u>information</u>.

In March of 2023 (more details <u>here</u>), President Biden granted a one-year extension to a specific set of refugees: Ukrainians who entered through Mexico at a U.S. port of entry between Feb.24 and April 25 last year. They were originally allowed to stay for one year, a time which is almost up; hence the extension.

Also in March 2023, the U.S. and Canada reached an agreement for both countries to divert asylum seekers from their borders. See more information <u>here</u>.

What can you do? Contact Your Senators and Representatives in DC.

BECOME A MEMBER!

You can help the United Nations build a better world by becoming a member of the Iowa United Nations Association. Help us to continue to educate, inspire, and mobilize Iowans in support of the lifesaving work of the United Nations. Join here! You may join our Iowa Division or our chapters in Johnson County, Linn County, or the Cedar Valley. Individuals under the age of 26 years are eligible for free membership. Obviously, the U.S. desperately needs a revised and reasonable immigration policy, one that is flexible enough to allow for unexpected refugee needs, one that is humane and as fair as possible. Please contact your senators and representatives in Washington to ask them (1) to support the reintroduction of the Afghan Adjustment Act, which will allow those who helped the U.S. during the Afghan war to continue to remain in the U.S.; and/or (2) to finally make DACA 2023 (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) permanent to allow those who arrived as children of undocumented immigrants years ago to remain in the only country most of them have ever known. Alternatively, contact your legislators about any aspect of refugee/immigration policy on which you'd like your voice to be heard.

Child Labor—A World, National and State Issue



E.J. Gallagher

President, Cedar Valley Chapter of UNA-USA, Iowa UNA Board Member, and Advocacy Committee Member

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which included a renewed global commitment to end child labour. Target 8.7 of the SDGs calls on the global community to: "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour including recruitment and use of child soldiers and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms." The UN works through the International Labour Organization (ILO) which was started in 1919 and served as an agency of the League of Nations.

Two ILO conventions are used to achieve the effective abolition of child labour as part of the ILO Programme on Child Labour. ILO Convention No. 138 is its Minimum Age Convention while ILO Convention No. 182 is on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. ILO 138 was adopted in 1973 and sets a minimum working age of 16 years. It went into force on June 19 of 1976 and has been ratified by 175 countries. ILO Convention 182 was adopted in 1999 and has been ratified by 187 countries. It went into effect on November 19, 2000. The United States ratified Convention 182 on December 2,1999 but has not ratified Convention 138 about minimum age. You can find more information <u>here</u>.

Labour is the Fifth Principle of the UN Global Compact on corporate sustainability. There is some variability and transition time for countries to establish a minimum employment age for admission



to employment or work, with division between developed and developing countries set out for light work, regular work, and hazardous work. In developing countries, the minimum age is 12 years for light work, 14 years for regular work and 18 years for hazardous work. In developed countries, the minimum age is 13 years for light work, 15 years for regular work and 18 years for hazardous work. Convention 182 requires governments to give priority to eliminating the worst forms of child labour undertaken by all children under the age of 18 years, These include: 1.) all forms of slavery, including trafficking of children, debt bondage, forced and compulsory labour; the use of children in armed conflict and the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or pornographic purposes: 2) The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular the production and trafficking of drugs and 3) Work which is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of the child as a consequence of its nature or the circumstances which it is carried out. The description of the Labour Principle states that Convention 182 is explicitly com-

plementary to Convention 138 and must not be used to justify other forms of child labour. In 2002 the UN set June 12 as World Day Against Child Labor which is observed annually. The year 2021 was set as a goal for the elimination of child labour, which was not accomplished. On June 12, governments, employers, workers organizations and civil society are to form and highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them. While child labour does not include all work performed by children, it does include work done by children which is carried out to the detriment and endangerment of a child and in violation of international law and national legislation. The UN, in its promotion for the upcoming June 12 observance, estimates that there are 218 million children around the world who work and cannot go to school or play and often do not receive proper nutrition. All these combine to take away their chance to be children. The percentage and absolute numbers of children in child labour are highest in Africa followed by Asia and the Pacific.

Cassandra is Still Right



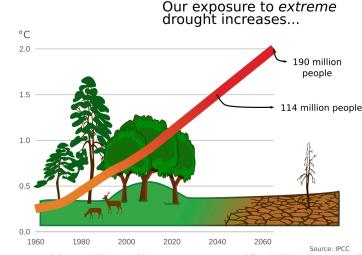
Jozef Figa Member of the Iowa UNA Advocacy Committee

The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, has become the modern equivalent of Cassandra, Cassandra was a Trojan priestess whose prophecies of doom were never believed but were always correct. In a video message launching the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Guterres referred to climate change as a time bomb and called upon governments to accelerate climate action before it is too late. Guterres seems to be in a more paradoxical position than Cassandra: The veracity of his "prophecies" has not been challenged. But actual policies often do not reflect these prophecies.

The AR6 Synthesis Report, the sixth ICCP assessment report, offers some hope. Many countries are making national commitments to reduce emissions and to adapt to climate change. They are also trying to help various communities to adapt to climate change. But these efforts are scattered and seem to disregard some of the most vulnerable communities. The current efforts cannot contain the rise of the average global temperature to 1.5C by 2030. In order to reach this goal, we have to halve the emissions of greenhouse gasses by 2030 and to completely eliminate them by 2050. This is very unlikely to happen. Which is why Antonio Guterres is talking about the ticking climate bomb.

Greenhouse gases are a part of the problem, but they seem to constitute the focus of current efforts. Ironically, according to the World Bank, we <u>globally subsidize fossil fuels</u> at the level of almost 7% of the global GDP. In other words, we are financing the crisis.

There are lots of partial narrations about global warming. Some focus on the <u>environmental impact of</u> <u>meat consumption</u>. This is important because the increasing consumption of animal proteins is correlated with economic development and with increasing standards of living. Others look at <u>fossil fuels</u>; economic development and increasing standards of living are also correlated with the in-



creased reliance on private transportation. There is also <u>deforestation</u> and <u>urbanization</u>. All of these variables are responsible for the increasing emissions of greenhouse gasses, and all of them need to be considered when it comes to policies that could contain global warming.

Commitments and promises by themselves do not constitute solutions. We can blame the former President of Brazil, Bolsonaro, for promoting the deliberate destruction of the Amazon rainforest. But he at least was honest about what he was doing. There are companies and countries that commit themselves publicly to environmentally friendly practices but get around such practices in their actual behavior. This is a way to pacify consumers and investors, who are concerned about the impact of what companies do on the environment. This is known as "Greenwashing." It includes using environmental imagery in various presentations, misleading labels, rebranding, repackaging, and hiding tradeoffs.

There are commitments, and there are policies. China is one of the signatories of the Paris Agreement, and yet, in 2021 China was responsible for more than half of the world's development of new coal power. At this point, China emits 27% of world's carbon dioxide and one-third of world's greenhouse gasses. This means that global warming cannot be contained without China's mass shift to a low-carbon economy. Also, the attempts to contain global warming sometimes are sabotaged at the local level. For instance, the Governor of Iowa, Kim Reynolds, has decided that getting away from fossil fuels constitutes a "woke ideology." So, she wants the lowa legislature to enact laws that would prevent state agencies and pension funds from doing business with companies that boycott the fossil fuel industry (and also gunmakers).

What if the average global temperature increases by more that 1.5C? Scientists are not sure because at this point, the Earth is warmer than it has been for the last 3 million years, that is, since the emergence of the first hominids. But some predictions are being made. For instance, the recent massive flooding of Fort Lauderdale, FL, has been denoted as a one in every 1000 years event. But meteorologists and climatologists argue that such events will be far more frequent. The heaviest rains and snowfalls in the U.S. will very likely increase by 30%. The results will be massive flooding in the West Coast regions and in the upper Midwest. Also, India and Pakistan have been experiencing increasing number of heatwaves. Scientists predicts that if climate warms by 2C, the probability is that the number of these intensive heatwaves will increase between 2 and 20 times. This translates into an increase in the number of what is known as "wet bulb temperature" episodes. During such episodes, temperatures exceed 31C (87.8F, equal to a heat index of 130F) and are extremely dangerous to humans. Antonio Guterres is a modern Cassandra. He is believed. But the science on which his predictions are based is frequently not followed by the necessary policies.

Global Warming is here...

Earth Day is Our Day: The UN is leading efforts to make Earth a better home for all. You can help too.



Eric Kwame Adae IUNA Board Member and Advocacy Committee Member

April 22, 2023 marks another <u>Earth Day</u>, a special day set aside annually to celebrate the kickstarting of one of the most pivotal environmental movements of the modern era. First celebrated on April 22, 1970, Earth Day elevates environmental protection discussions on national government agendas, boosts public consciousness, and drives positive climate action. Today, Earth Day has grown in stature into a global event, with many hundreds of millions of people participating in events in more than 190 countries each year. Earth Day is an important reminder to everyone that we all have a role to play in conserving the environment. By actively participating in Earth Day activities, we can all contribute meaningfully to helping make a solid difference for our planet and ensure a better home for all.

Celebrating Earth Day brings into sharper focus the important role of the United Nations (UN) to protect the global environment. Since its inception in 1945, the UN has made significant contributions to high-level, as well as local-level, global responses to some of the biggest environmental issues that present an existential threat to humanity, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

as local-level, global responses to some of the biggest environmental issues that present an existential threat to humanity, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Through its various bodies and programs, the UN promotes international cooperation, facilitates dialogue among countries, and provides leadership and guidance on environmental issues. Leading the UN's environmental conservation charge is the <u>United Nations Environment Programme</u> (UNEP), a specialized body responsible for coordinating the UN's environmental activities and providing strong leadership and guidance for the major environmental issues.UNEP closely collaborates with other specialized UN agencies, including the <u>World Health Organization</u> (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the <u>International Atomic Energy Agency</u> (IAEA), to synergistically ensure a coordinated effort and approach to environmental protection. A significant contribution in the direction of this environmental protection agenda is the <u>UN Framework Convention on Climate Change</u> (UNFCC), which entered into force in 1994. The treaty laid a strong foundation for ongoing dialogue and cooperation among the world's countries to address the climate crisis and led, most recently, to the

A significant contribution in the direction of this environmental protection agenda is the <u>UN Framework Convention on Climate Change</u> (UNFCC), which entered into force in 1994. The treaty laid a strong foundation for ongoing dialogue and cooperation among the world's countries to address the climate crisis and led, most recently, to the <u>Paris Agreement</u>, a legally binding international treaty adopted at the 2015 <u>UN Climate Change Conference</u>. The treaty, ratified by 196 countries, represents the most comprehensive climate agreement in human history. It commits parties to take steps to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to effectively push global efforts to limit temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The UN also led the adoption of the 2015 <u>Sustainable Development Goals</u> (SDGs), which provide a workable framework to guide countries in sustainably addressing environmental issues. The SDGs comprise a set of 17 broad goals and 169 targets, seeking to eradicate poverty, spur economic progress and prosperity, while protecting the environment for current and future generations. UN treaties and global initiatives like the SDGs provide political frameworks for international cooperation, technical assistance, and capacity building initiatives, including training, technology transfer, and financial support. UN programs are especially important in providing resources to low-income countries, working to ensure that nobody is left behind in efforts to address the climate crisis in sustainable ways that also contribute to economic development.

sustainable ways that also contribute to economic development. The UN relies on voluntary compliance from member states to implement environmental agreements. Member states do not always comply with their obligations, and the UN has limited enforcement mechanisms to hold them accountable. The UN's environmental programs and initiatives require significant funding to be effective, but the UN struggles to secure adequate resources for implementation. In general, a lack of political will among the world's countries to prioritize environmental protection hinders UN climate action efforts. Potential tension between environmental protection and economic interests leads to challenges in generating consensus among member states.

Dspite these challenges, the UN offers our best hope of promoting the global cooperation necessary to advance climate action on a global scale. The way I see it, conserving the environment is a moral imperative requiring collective action and support from individuals, organizations, and governments, and the UN's work on the environment is an essential part of this collective effort. The climate crisis affects everyone, regardless of nationality, race, or socio-economic status, and has significant impacts on human health and the global economy. Environmental issues are not limited by borders or political boundaries. They require a coordinated and global response to effectively address them, and the UN is the most uniquely placed entity to lead in this global effort.

This Earth Day also offers an opportunity to emphasize the importance of taking climate action in our own state and local communities. Work of local bodies like the <u>lowa City Climate Action Commission</u>, the <u>Cedar Rapids Climate Advisory Committee</u>, <u>ADAPT DSM</u>, a climate action plan developed by the Sustainability Office of the City of Des Moines, and the City of Ames <u>Climate Action Plan</u> offer models for developing climate action plans in our own communities.

These types of local action plans can help build support for investment in sustainable infrastructure and technologies and to address environmental challenges in ways that protect the economic and social interests of specific communities.

On Earth Day and every day, remember: the world is yours; and the power is yours

Special thanks to Chair Nancy Porter, Ed Cranston, Alice Dahle, Jozef Figa, E.J. Gallagher, Caryl Lyons and Jane Shuttleworth of our Advocacy Committee!

Also, a huge shoutout to the Drake School of Journalism and Mass Communications student, Nash Linsley, for putting together this newsletter and enhancing the Iowa United Nations Association brand!

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