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## **Annan pleads for United Nations reform**

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**15 September, 2005**

## **THE ARTICLE**

### **Annan pleads for United Nations reform**

**BNE:** United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has asked world leaders to agree on actions to make the world a safer place. Government heads from 170 countries are meeting in New York for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN. Mr. Annan urged them to pass urgent reforms and to take bold steps to fight poverty and strengthen world security. He said: "I urge you, as world leaders...to persevere and find the vision needed to forge a real consensus." He was disappointed that many countries watered down his proposals for reform.

Mr. Annan said his biggest disappointment is the failure of the world to find agreement over nuclear weapons. He told the meeting: "Our biggest challenge, and our biggest failing, is on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament." He continued: "This is inexcusable. Weapons of mass destruction pose a grave danger to us all, particularly in a world threatened by terrorists with global ambitions." He also said he was saddened because leaders could not agree on a definition of terrorism.

## **WARM-UPS**

**1. UNITED NATIONS:** You have a new nationality. Choose your new country. Walk around the class and talk to other students, who also have new nationalities. Tell each other about your new country and the kind of lifestyle you have in that country.

**2. UN REFORM:** Look at the issues below. These are being discussed at the three-day summit at the UN. In pairs / groups, talk about what the UN should agree on. Do you think the UN will ever succeed with these issues?

- a. World poverty
- b. Human rights
- c. Peace-keeping
- d. Genocide and ethnic cleansing
- e. Terrorism
- f. UN internal reform
- g. Nuclear non-proliferation / disarmament

**3. UNITED NATIONS SEARCH:** Speak to as many students as you can, collecting information about the United Nations. Join a partner / group and share your information. Make presentations to other groups. Vote on the best presentation.

**4. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

*United Nations / Kofi Annan / world leaders / New York / reforms / world security / poverty / nuclear weapons / disarmament / grave dangers / terrorists*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

**5. KOFI ANNAN:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with Kofi Annan. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. OPINIONS:** Do agree with these opinions on the United Nations? Talk about them with your partner(s).

- a. The world would be poorer and more dangerous without the UN.
- b. The UN cannot doesn't work well because the USA does not like it.
- c. Japan, Brazil and India should join the UN Security Council.
- d. The UN helps countries to talk to each other.
- e. The UN has succeeded in its main aim of preventing world war.
- f. It's impossible to get 190 countries to agree with each other.
- g. The UN is full of corruption and poor management.
- h. The UN must have more power.

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. Kofi Annan wants the UN to be reformed.                             | T / F |
| b. Government heads from 170 countries are meeting in New York.        | T / F |
| c. Mr. Annan wants countries to take bold steps to fight poverty.      | T / F |
| d. Many countries have diluted Mr. Annan's ideas for reform.           | T / F |
| e. The world has found agreement over nuclear disarmament.             | T / F |
| f. Weapons of mass destruction pose a grave danger.                    | T / F |
| g. Mr. Annan said terrorists with global ambitions threaten the world. | T / F |
| h. Countries agreed on a definition for terrorism.                     | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| a. asked          | diluted       |
| b. actions        | brave         |
| c. bold           | serious       |
| d. persevere      | requested     |
| e. watered down   | present       |
| f. disappointment | understanding |
| g. agreement      | measures      |
| h. pose           | description   |
| i. grave          | letdown       |
| j. definition     | keep going    |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| a. agree                         | steps to fight poverty and disarmament |
| b. make the world                | disappointment                         |
| c. take bold                     | danger                                 |
| d. and find the vision needed to | forge a real consensus                 |
| e. proposals                     | on actions                             |
| f. his biggest                   | by terrorists                          |
| g. nuclear non-proliferation     | a definition of terrorism              |
| h. pose a grave                  | a safer place                          |
| i. a world threatened            | for reform                             |
| j. leaders could not agree on    |  |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words in the column on the right into the gaps in the text.

### Annan pleads for United Nations reform

**BNE:** United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has asked \_\_\_\_\_ leaders to \_\_\_\_\_ on actions to make the world a safer place. Government \_\_\_\_\_ from 170 countries are meeting in New York for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN. Mr. Annan urged them to \_\_\_\_\_ urgent reforms and to take \_\_\_\_\_ steps to fight poverty and strengthen world security. He said: "I urge you, as world leaders...to \_\_\_\_\_ and find the \_\_\_\_\_ needed to forge a real consensus." He was disappointed that many countries \_\_\_\_\_ down his proposals for reform.

Mr. Annan said his \_\_\_\_\_ disappointment is the failure of the world to find agreement \_\_\_\_\_ nuclear weapons. He told the meeting: "Our biggest challenge, and our biggest \_\_\_\_\_, is on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament." He continued: "This is \_\_\_\_\_. Weapons of mass destruction \_\_\_\_\_ a grave danger to us all, particularly in a world threatened by \_\_\_\_\_ with global ambitions." He also said he was \_\_\_\_\_ because leaders could not agree on a \_\_\_\_\_ of terrorism.

*pass*  
*persevere*  
*agree*  
*watered*  
*bold*  
*world*  
*vision*  
*heads*  
*ailing*  
*definition*  
*over*  
*terrorists*  
*biggest*  
*pose*  
*saddened*  
*inexcusable*

## **AFTER READING / LISTENING**

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words '**bold**' and '**step**'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the gap fill. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. STUDENT "UNITED NATIONS" SURVEY:** In pairs / groups, write down questions about the United Nations.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

**6. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| • asked        | • failure     |
| • heads        | • challenge   |
| • anniversary  | • inexcusable |
| • poverty      | • grave       |
| • persevere    | • ambitions   |
| • watered down | • definition  |

## **DISCUSSION**

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. What did you think when you first read this headline?
- b. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- c. What do you think about the United Nations?
- d. What would the world be like without the United Nations?
- e. What problems does the UN have to deal with?
- f. Kind of reforms does the UN need?
- g. Is Kofi Annan a good leader of the UN?
- h. Do you think working for the UN would be interesting?
- i. What successes has the UN had?
- j. What are the biggest obstacles facing the UN?

### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. What kind of power does your country have in the UN?
- d. How difficult do you think it is for 190 countries to agree on issues of world importance?
- e. Do you think some countries have too much power in the UN?
- f. Do you think Japan, Brazil, Germany and India should become UN Security Council members?
- g. Do you think countries should be punished for not following UN resolutions?
- h. Why do you think countries can't agree on a definition of terrorism?
- i. What would you do first if you were head of the UN?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

**AFTER DISCUSSION:** Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?

## **SPEAKING**

**UNITED NATIONS:** Imagine you are the boss of the UN. Look at the areas below and think of the changes you want to happen.

AREAS FOR ACTION	CHANGES
Development (Millennium Development goals) and making poverty disappear	
Human Rights	
Peace-building and peace-keeping	
Responsibility to prevent genocide and ethnic cleansing	
Terrorism	
UN management (internal) reform	
Nuclear non-proliferation / disarmament	

Change partners and show each other what you agreed. Give each other feedback on how to make your changes better.

Present your changes to other groups. Ask and answer questions.



## **LISTENING**

Listen and fill in the spaces.

### **Annan pleads for United Nations reform**

**BNE:** United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan \_\_\_\_\_ world leaders \_\_\_\_\_ actions to make the world a safer place. Government heads from 170 countries are meeting in New York for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN. Mr. Annan urged them \_\_\_\_\_ urgent reforms and to take bold steps to fight poverty and strengthen world security. He said: "I urge you, as world leaders...to persevere and find \_\_\_\_\_ needed to forge a real consensus." He was disappointed that many countries watered down his \_\_\_\_\_ for reform.

Mr. Annan said his biggest disappointment is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world to find agreement over nuclear weapons. He told the meeting: "Our biggest \_\_\_\_\_, and our biggest \_\_\_\_\_, is on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament." He continued: "This is inexcusable. Weapons of mass destruction pose a \_\_\_\_\_ danger to us all, particularly in a world threatened by terrorists with global \_\_\_\_\_." He also said he was saddened because leaders could not agree on a \_\_\_\_\_ of terrorism.

## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information on the United Nations. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

**3. TERRORISM:** Create a definition for the word "terrorism. Show your definition to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all have similar ideas?

**4. LETTER TO KOFI ANNAN:** Write a letter to the UN Secretary General. Tell him what you think of him and his performance as head of the UN. Tell him your worries concerns for the world. Read your letter to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar concerns?

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T      b. T      c. F      d. T      e. F      f. T      g. T      h. F

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| a. asked          | requested     |
| b. actions        | measures      |
| c. bold           | brave         |
| d. persevere      | keep going    |
| e. watered down   | diluted       |
| f. disappointment | letdown       |
| g. agreement      | understanding |
| h. pose           | present       |
| i. grave          | serious       |
| j. definition     | description   |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. agree                         | on actions                |
| b. make the world                | a safer place             |
| c. take bold                     | steps to fight poverty    |
| d. and find the vision needed to | forge a real consensus    |
| e. proposals                     | for reform                |
| f. his biggest                   | disappointment            |
| g. nuclear non-proliferation     | and disarmament           |
| h. pose a grave                  | danger                    |
| i. a world threatened            | by terrorists             |
| j. leaders could not agree on    | a definition of terrorism |

### GAP FILL:

#### Annan pleads for United Nations reform

**BNE:** United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has asked **world** leaders to **agree** on actions to make the world a safer place. Government **heads** from 170 countries are meeting in New York for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN. Mr. Annan urged them to **pass** urgent reforms and to take **bold** steps to fight poverty and strengthen world security. He said: "I urge you, as world leaders...to **persevere** and find the **vision** needed to forge a real consensus." He was disappointed that many countries **watered** down his proposals for reform.

Mr. Annan said his **biggest** disappointment is the failure of the world to find agreement **over** nuclear weapons. He told the meeting: "Our biggest challenge, and our biggest **failing**, is on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament." He continued: "This is **inexcusable**. Weapons of mass destruction **pose** a grave danger to us all, particularly in a world threatened by **terrorists** with global ambitions." He also said he was **saddened** because leaders could not agree on a **definition** of terrorism.