

## The UN Studies Working Group - UNSA

### NEWS – June 16, 2008

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are happy to provide you with a summary of our Bonn results and information about our joint future activities. Please enjoy the reading!

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#### ***Bonn report:***

**Founding of the UN Studies Association (UNSA).** We changed our official status and name to apply for funds, if necessary, and to do outreach. Twelve members attended the founding meeting of the UN Studies Association (a non-profit under German law) at the restaurant “Em Höttche” in Bonn on June 3, 2008. As was discussed in our working group meeting on June 5 (see below), we will remain a working group: with no official institutional body or membership fees; and our active membership being our major asset.

**Seminar on UN Research and Teaching** on June 4 at the German Development Institute in Bonn. 25 participants engaged in our brainstorming and discussion rounds about the future of UN Research and Teaching, including our special speaker, Sir Richard Jolly. We mapped existing views on the UN, gathered innovative ideas and explored possible teaching methods and tools. Please visit our UN Studies Portal to learn what has been discussed and what we wish to address in the future: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/SeminarResults>.

**UN Studies Working Group meeting** on June 5 at the German Development Institute in Bonn. We discussed the founding of the UN Studies Association on June 3, emphasizing that the UNSA serves as our formal framework to apply for funds or do outreach. Concerning the future direction of the group, we confirmed to keep the “working group spirit”, based on members’ initiating and taking joint action. A more detailed report of our meeting is available at: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/WorkingGroupMeeting>.

Furthermore, members proposed a variety of future projects (for more details, please see below). Kirsten Haack reported on the planned **Journal of International Organization Studies (JIOS)**, and discussed possible contents and formats with other members. If you are interested in participating in this project, please visit our portal for an update or contact Kirsten at [jios@unstudies.org](mailto:jios@unstudies.org).

#### ***Future Activities***

**Follow-up I on Seminar: Discussion via UN Studies Portal.** We have created a webpage on our wiki portal to better disseminate our seminar results - including participants’ introductory statements, their discussion contributions as recorded by our student team of the UN Legal Research Team, as well as the outcome (mindmaps, new views and tools in bullet points): <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/SeminarResults>.

This page will serve as the entry point for our group’s discussion on the concept of UN Studies and how to translate new ideas into teaching practice:

**Join the online discussion!** If you participated in the seminar, please consider posting your introductory statement and making additions to the discussion notes. All of you, including those who could not participate but wish to be part of the discussion, please feel free to create new content or add comments to existing articles. We have updated our tutorial and set up a new FAQ for your better reference how to work with our wiki.

**Follow-up II on Seminar: Phone discussions.** Additionally, we will organize monthly conference calls to discuss specific results of our seminar, in the overall quest for a common concept of UN studies, innovative research and successful teaching tools. We will notify you by email about the exact date of these phone conferences, which will be likely held on a fixed date every month (every second or third Tuesday, for instance).

### **Proposed member-run projects**

- Online seminars on UN public management
- Journal of International Organization Studies
- Workshop on teaching techniques / new media and UN Studies
- Seminar follow-up: Developing a concept of UN Studies and teaching tools
- Activities related to 60th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Students / PhD Corner

Please visit our UN Studies Portal ([www.unstudies.org](http://www.unstudies.org)) for more information about these projects, as well as to learn about other activities you may wish to contribute to.

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### **Working group news**

**Promoting our group.** We hired a young designer to develop a logo as well as outreach material such as posters and a flyer, which was distributed at the ACUNS Annual Meeting. This material can be downloaded from our UN Studies Portal's homepage. Please contact us for print copies of the flyers. Furthermore, please consider to link your organization's website with the UN Studies Portal.

**Updated tutorial and FAQ for our wiki-based online portal.** To better assist you in using our wiki portal, we updated the tutorial: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/Tutorial>. Moreover, we developed a FAQ section based on your feedback and questions: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/WikiFAQ>.

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We very much look forward to hearing your comments and ideas.

Best wishes,

Julia and Henrike

**Julia Harfensteller & Henrike Paepcke, Co-Chairs  
UN Studies Working Group - UNSA**

UN Studies Working Group - UNSA c/o VSP  
Hannoversche Str. 2, D-10115 Berlin, Germany  
Phone: +49-30-2758-1564  
Fax: +49-30-2758-1569  
Email: [workinggroup@unstudies.org](mailto:workinggroup@unstudies.org)  
Internet: [www.unstudies.org](http://www.unstudies.org); [www.igloo.org/unstudies](http://www.igloo.org/unstudies)

*If you do not wish to receive emails and news any longer,  
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