



A New Vision for the UN: Strengthening Our Shared Future



UNA Minnesota Executive Committee Members: Clara Ugarte Perrin, Kinza Qazi and Don McCormick seated in the General Assembly Hall during the afternoon session of the Global Engagement Summit.

On April 10, 2026, more than 1,000 advocates, students, and policymakers descended upon New York City for the UNA-USA Global Engagement Summit (GES) with a focus of building a more modern, effective, and inclusive United Nations.

Three members from UNA-MN Executive Committee attended: President Don McCormick, Vice President Clara Ugarte Perrin, and Secretary Kinza Qazi.

Minnesota Board member Michael Eaton spearheaded the conference's vision and agenda through his roles as Executive Director, National Model UN and National Council of UNA-USA.

The four themes of the conference were:

- **Localizing the Pact for the Future:** The Pact is landmark international declaration adopted by United Nations member states in 2024 to reform global governance and address 21st-century challenges that the original 1945 UN Charter didn't anticipate. (Read [more here](#) about the Pact for the Future.)
 - Sustainable Development & Financing
 - International Peace and Security
 - Science, Technology, and Innovation
 - Youth and Future Generations
 - Transforming Global Governance
- **Engaging Young Leaders:** People ages 18-35
 - Address their needs to influence policy decisions and actions
 - More opportunities to participate in UNA events
 - Expand access to leadership roles
 - Address affordability issues in participation
- **Addressing the Information Health Ecosystem:**
 - The digital divide is causing greater concern about inequality with over 2.2 billion people lacking access to the internet
 - Social media continues to grow as a "false source of truth" as more and more people look to influencers for content which often includes misinformation
 - New gateways are being created and many people are left out because they cannot overcome the barriers to participation



Michael Eaton, Executive Director, National Model UN and UNA USA Minnesota board member delivering Opening Plenary remarks highlighting the benefits of experiencing the Model UN.



Melissa Fleming

The UN must evolve to meet the challenges of 2026 and beyond. We aren't just looking for a seat at the table; we are here to help build a better table.

— Melissa Fleming, UN Under-Secretary-General.

United Nations' 80th-anniversary reform initiative, launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2025. It is a multi-year effort to rethink how the UN works—its mandates, structures, financing, and field presence—as the organization turns 80.



The UN80 initiative is the United Nations' ambitious, system-wide reform effort to respond to a vital question: 'How can the UN adapt to become more agile, integrated, and equipped to respond to today's complex global challenges amid tightening resources?'

<https://www.un.org/un80-initiative/en/news/what-un80-initiative>

UNA Minnesota Chapter will leverage this information in its plans for 2026 and beyond.

Reach out to our Minnesota UNA chapter at info@unamn.org, to learn more.

Become a UNA-USA, Minnesota Chapter Member: Join your state UNA network to advocate for global engagement. Membership is \$50 annually, with options for free or reduced fees for students and those on fixed incomes. Go to: <https://unausa.org/join/membership/>. **The UN, UNA-USA, and your Minnesota Chapter needs your support.**





Pact for the Future



UNA Minnesota Executive Committee Members: Don McCormick, Kinza Qazi and Clara Ugarte Perrin with Stephane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General

The Pact for the Future is a landmark international declaration adopted by United Nations member states to reform global governance and address 21st-century challenges that the original 1945 UN Charter didn't anticipate.

While the framework was established during the **Summit of the Future** in late 2024, it serves as the operational "north star" for the discussions that took place at the recently attended **2026 Global Engagement Summit** in April.

Why It Matters in 2026

By 2026, the Pact has moved from a "vision document" to an "action phase." At the recent Global Engagement Summit, the focus was specifically on accountability.

Learn more on the United Nations' website - Pact for the Future: World leaders pledge action for peace, sustainable development.

The Five Core Pillars

The Pact is organized into five broad focus areas designed to modernize international cooperation:

- 1. Sustainable Development & Financing:** Accelerating the 2030 Agenda (SDGs) and reforming the "international financial architecture" to help developing nations access better credit and resources.
- 2. International Peace and Security:** Moving toward a "New Agenda for Peace," which includes addressing the risks of AI-driven weaponry, cyber warfare, and reforming the UN Security Council.
- 3. Science, Technology, and Innovation:** Establishing the Global Digital Compact to ensure internet access is a human right and to create global guardrails for Artificial Intelligence.
- 4. Youth and Future Generations:** Creating the first-ever dedicated UN office to represent the interests of people not yet born, ensuring long-term environmental and economic stability.
- 5. Transforming Global Governance:** Modernizing the UN's own structures to make them more representative of the modern world (shifting power balances to include more voices from the Global South).

JOIN US

USA for UNFPA presents:
A Global Conversation on Women and Girls



You're Invited

To an evening of learning, connection, and action, presented by USA for UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency.

Please RSVP by 4/30/2026.

Date: Thursday, May 28
Time: 5:30-8:00pm
Location: The Minneapolis Club (729 2nd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55402)

To register for this all important global conversation Go to: <https://usaforunfpapresents.rsvpify.com/>





From Access to Power: Intergenerational Voices Shaping the Digital Future

On the margins of the 2026 Global Engagement Summit in New York, the Intergenerational Consultation for Girls in ICT Day 2026 made evident how much the conversation on technology has evolved—and where things are heading.

Since its inception by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 2010, Girls in ICT Day has reached over 417,000 girls and young women in 175 countries. However, the conversation has shifted beyond access. Today, the core issue is power: who is building digital systems, who they serve, and who they continue to leave behind

A Pivotal Policy Moment

The discussion moved into the challenges and realities shaping the power from online gender-based violence, algorithmic bias, and the growing urgency around the ethics and governance of Artificial Intelligence. These issues are already defining how people experience safety, opportunity, and participation in the digital world.

“Chloe Wang, a student leader in technology, made it very clear that young people are not just “the future” of tech; they are already actively shaping the conversation, challenging assumptions, and pushing for accountability today.



The UNA-USA Women's Affinity Group Intergenerational Consultation is directly tied to major global efforts and the insights from this session serve as a bridge to several high-level frameworks, including:

- **Beijing+30:** Evaluating three decades of progress in gender equality.
- **Spotlight Initiative 2.0:** Launching the next phase of global efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls.
- **The Global Digital Compact:** Implementing shared principles for an open, free, and secure digital future.
- **CSW71 & The 2030 Agenda:** Positioning for the 71st Commission on the Status of Women and the urgent acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Intergenerational Advantage

What made this consultation stand out was its intergenerational dynamic. Voices like Kome Igbogidi, a gender and digital inclusion specialist; Dr. MaryAnn Ngozi Obidke, an academic focused on ICT and women's empowerment; Lady Tee Thompson, a youth digital rights advocate, and Chloe Wang, a student leader in technology, made it very clear that young people are not just "the future" of tech; they are already actively shaping the conversation, challenging assumptions, and pushing for accountability today.

As global commitments move forward, spaces like this matter as they close the gap between policy and lived experience, ensuring that the digital future is equitable for all.

Clara Ugarte Perrin participated in and reports on the consultation on April 9, 2026, as a member of the UNA-USA Women's Affinity Group during her engagement at the 2026 Global Engagement Summit.

Ask yourself: Why is the UN important?

Because: *The United Nations is vital to humanity for maintaining international peace, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, and fostering global cooperation to solve complex challenges like climate change, poverty, and conflict. And, it has a proven record of doing so. Is it perfect? No. But, with increasing support from all of us, we can add to its growing efficiency and effectiveness. What is the alternative?*





Fashioning a Just Future

WHERE INDUSTRY MEETS POLICY.
WHERE MINNESOTA SHAPES THE FUTURE.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Locally, Minnesota's diverse communities, including immigrant and Indigenous designers, are modeling regenerative, culturally rooted, and socially responsible alternatives. With rising policy attention on circularity, corporate transparency, and ESG accountability, this conversation comes at a critical moment.

Join the United Nations Association of Minnesota for an engaging discussion on Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Learn how the global fashion industry impacts Minnesota and our local waste, equity goals, and economy—and what you can do to advance SDG 12. This event is **free and open to the community.**



Featured Speakers



Dr. Elizabeth (Missy) Bye
Professor Emerita
UMN College of Design

Global expert in textiles and apparel technology. Former President of the International Textile and Apparel Association (ITAA) & two time recipient of the Lectra Innovation award



Ramadhan Mohamed
Founder of
Ramadhan Designs

Award-winning Somalian-American designer of Oromo heritage and UMN alum, celebrated by Minneapolis St. Paul Magazine. Specializes in ethical fashion and zero-waste manufacturing



Samrah Khan
Chief of Staff at
Climate Cardinals
Moderator

Executive leader at the world's largest youth-led climate education organization. Former United Nations Global Goals Ambassador, & Humphrey PPIA Fellow

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 | 5:00-7:00 PM

Humphrey School of Public Affairs: Crowles Auditorium

THE FUTURE OF FASHION IS CIRCULAR.



UNA USA
Harold E. Stassen Minnesota Chapter

The United Nations Association of Minnesota (UNA-MN) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the work and values of the United Nations in Minnesota. We engage with communities through educational programs, advocacy initiatives, and events that address global issues at the local level. Visit UNA-MN.org to learn more.

Mission of the UN Association

The mission of UNA-USA (United Nations Association of the USA) is to educate, inspire, and mobilize Americans to support the United Nations, strengthen the UN system, promote constructive US leadership in the UN, and achieve the goals outlined in the UN Charter. This includes promoting human rights, sustainable development, international peace and security, and other goals outlined in the UN Charter.

Join your Minnesota chapter at <https://unausa.org/join/membership/>





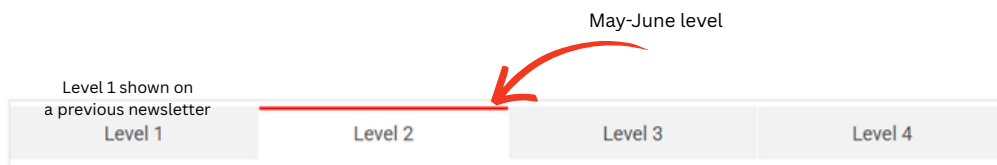
Change starts with you. Seriously. Every human on earth—even the most indifferent, laziest person among us—is part of the solution. Fortunately, there are some super easy things we can adopt into our routines that, if we all do it, will make a big difference. Find out about being a solution by clicking [here](#), or by going to:

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/takeaction/>

End extreme poverty. Fight inequality and injustice. Fix climate change. The Sustainable Development Goals are important, world-changing objectives that will require cooperation among governments, international organizations and world leaders. It seems impossible that the average person can make an impact. Should you just give up?

Have a look at just a few of the many things you can do to make an impact!

Click [here](#) for a PDF download of some of the actions.



THINGS YOU CAN DO AT HOME

- Air dry. Let your hair and clothes dry naturally instead of running a machine. If you do wash your clothes, make sure the load is full.
- Take short showers. Bathtubs require gallons more water than a 5-10 minute shower.
- Eat less meat, poultry, and fish. More resources are used to provide meat than plants
- Freeze fresh produce and leftovers if you don't have the chance to eat them before they go bad. You can also do this with take-away or delivered food, if you know you will not feel like eating it the next day. You will save food and money.
- Compost—composting food scraps can reduce climate impact while also recycling nutrients.
- Recycling paper, plastic, glass & aluminium keeps landfills from growing.
- Buy minimally packaged goods.
- Avoid pre-heating the oven. Unless you need a precise baking temperature, start heating your food right when you turn on the oven.
- Plug air leaks in windows and doors to increase energy efficiency
- Adjust your thermostat, lower in winter, higher in summer
- Replace old appliances with energy efficient models and light bulbs
- If you have the option, install solar panels in your house. This will also reduce your electricity bill!
- Get a rug. Carpets and rugs keep your house warm and your thermostat low.
- Don't rinse. If you use a dishwasher, stop rinsing your plates before you run the machine.
- Choose a better diaper option. Swaddle your baby in cloth diapers or a new, environmentally responsible disposable brand.
- Shovel snow manually. Avoid the noisy, exhaust-churning snow blower and get some exercise.
- Use cardboard matches. They don't require any petroleum, unlike plastic gas-filled lighters.





Notable UN/UNA-Minnesota Observances

NEWSLETTER

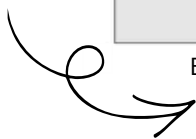
Serving All Minnesotans



MAY 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 World Press Freedom Day	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8 WWII Remembrance Day	9 Migratory Bird Day
10 Mother's Day	11	12 Fashioning a Just Future: Humphrey School, U of M – 5:30 to 8 PM	13	14	15 Intl Families Day	16 Intl Living in Peace Day
17 Telecommunications and Information Society Day	18	19	20 World Bee Day	21 Intl Tea Day/Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialog & Development	22 Biological Diversity Day	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28 USA for UNFPA Event (UNA-MN) Mpls Club – 5:30PM	29 UN Peacekeepers Day	30 Twin Cities Asian Fair (Hilde Performance Center)
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Blue calendar entries are either a UNA-Minnesota chapter event or one that we encourage member participation in.

JUNE 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 Global Parents Day	2	3 World Bicycle Day	4 Innocent Child Victims of Aggression Day	5 Fight Against Illegal/Unregulate d Fishing Day	6 Russian Language Day
7 World Food Safety Day	8 World Oceans Day	9 Anti-Child Labor Day	10	11	12	13
14 FLAG DAY	15 Elder Abuse Awareness Day	16	17 Combat Dessertification Day	18 Sustainable Eating Day	19 Juneteenth	20 Eliminate Sexual Violence in Conflict Day
21 Father's Day - Solstice Celebration Day	22	23 Intl Widows Day/Public Service Day	24	25 Day of the Seafarer	26 Anti-Drug Abuse/Illicit Trafficking Day	27 Micro/Sml/Med. Size Business Day
28 Intl. Tropics Day	29	30	1	2	3	4



Be sure to keep up on your Minnesota UNA chapter's activities and other notable UN days on the newly added web-based calendar at <https://www.unamn.org/events-meetings-programs>

The United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) is a registered 501c3 nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides educational and meaningful advocacy engagements to connect members with all aspects of the US-UN relationship.

UNA-USA has chapters in more than 46 U.S. states and territories, and over 180 chapters nationwide



JOIN US

Send your suggestions and ideas to newsletter editor at andrewl@unamn.org