



## Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing®

### UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

Title of the event was “Leading the United Nations: A Global Townhall with United Nations Secretary-General Candidates.”

This was the first town hall gathering of the United Nations Secretary-General candidates who took questions from diplomats and the public.

The meeting took place at the United Nations General Assembly Hall on Tuesday, 12 July 2016, but was viewed through [United Nations Web TV](#).

Report submitted by Timothy Shi, STTI United Nations Youth Representative

Attendees learned about the possible United Nations Secretary-General candidates and how STTI and nurses around the world can aid in their agenda.

- Vuk Jeremic: Previous president of the UN general assembly in 2012. Understands that the world is more and more global; therefore, the UN needs to take a larger role in the future. He understands that there are many things wrong with the UN, where failure overshadows the achievements. He has a public decree of 53 commitments that he will change. This can be found at [http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2016/01/12-April\\_Vision-Statement-Serbia.pdf](http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2016/01/12-April_Vision-Statement-Serbia.pdf).
- Antonio Guterres: He has climate change and population growth focus. Resources are scarce now and we need better leadership with a solid ethical grasp to improve cohesion around the world as we become more and more diverse. These values will help bring peace to the world.
- Vesna Pusic: Has an extensive history of working leadership roles and hates cynicism. Believes that global change stems from the UN and there is a strong need for change in climate.
- Susana Malcorra: Current Chef de Cabinet of the UN Secretariat. World needs a United Nations that’s closer to the people, where the UN can deliver resources to its people. With her current experience she thinks she knows the pressures of what it takes to be the next leader.
- Natalia Gherman: Believes that the UN is the only international group that can make change in the future through international dialogue. Her previous experience as the minister of foreign affairs and European integration of Moldova. She is the current prime minister of Moldova. Hopes that her previous experiences will aid the UN in the future.

First Question from the Hungarian Ambassador to the UN: What kind of leadership do you think the world needs today? And if elected, how would you like to translate that what we do in the UN is important to the rest of the world?

- Vesna Pusic: The criteria for the next General-Secretariat has changed to a popularity contest. But she believes leadership should stand out and not be a popularity test. Natalia: Need to be proactive, not reactive, to the challenges of society.

Second Question: The current General-Secretariat has been criticized for poor communication. How will you improve on this?

- Antonio Guterres: Ban Ki Moon is doing an excellent job. Need to translate the important issues in the UN into a clear language that everyone uses.
- Vuk Jeremic: Need to stop all the talking and we need to take action now.

Third Question: Blood bath is happening in South Sudan, but UN peace keepers are locked down in their bases/ What do you think they should be doing?

- Susana Malcorra: The problem lies in the leadership of South Sudan. The UN role is not to stop the fighting, but to protect the people. The Security Council needs to come to a solution of what it can do now, but the leadership of South Sudan needs to have better leadership over their country.

Fourth Question from Justice Minister of Senegal: International Justice is seen as discriminatory towards African Americans. What actions are you going to take as General-Secretariat to combat these discriminations?

- Vuk Jeremic: Has addressed this issue when he was president of the general assembly. Speaks to these issues within the decree he has out.
- Vesna Pusic: The courts are not perfect, but it's better than not having them. In the end, if you commit war crimes, you will be punished.

Fifth Question: Conflict Prevention...do you think more resources should be allocated towards this area?

- Vuk Jeremic: Yes, there needs to be more resources allocated towards conflict prevention. Refers to his 53-point plan describing his plan towards conflict prevention. Essential element of peace operations, needs to involve a significant overhaul of the peace operations. Need new generation of stabilization missions.

Sixth Question: The gap between the rich and poor is getting greater, especially with the mass movement of refugees recently, and also how climate change really affects the poorest people.

- Vesna Pusic: Climate change is not a long term threat any more, especially for small island nations. It is almost on the same level as nuclear weapons. Public opinion is a valuable ally here to help convince people.
- Vuk Jeremic: General-Secretariat has to be a cheerleader in a sense in making sure other countries abide by environmental rules. Not all countries can reach their contribution easily; therefore, the UN needs to engage these countries so they can reach the most that they are able to. Climate change is this generation's problem, and action needs to go beyond just a piece of paper.
- Susana Malcorra: The General-Secretariat's role is not to be the president of the UN; rather, it is there to help increase moral of countries so that the goals can be reached. The SDGs were short of what we need; therefore, we need to really encourage other countries to do as much as they can.

Seventh Question from Civil Society: What steps will you take to reform the UN and to appoint more women into the UN system to bridge the gender gap?

- Susana Malcorra: Historically, this question goes beyond the UN. Women need to break that ceiling in their individual countries so that they can join the UN leadership.
- Vuk Jeremic: This will be one of his foremost priorities.

- Antonio Guterres: Empowerment of women is the way across the board. Protection will only work when empowerment is the priority. Need to have a clear road map with benchmarks and targets and independent evaluations in the way appointments are made.
- Natalia Gherman: We need to lead by example,; therefore, a woman should be the next UN General-Secretariat!

STTI members need to understand there is an upcoming vote for the next UN General-Secretariat. This is a monumental vote and with the new SDGs just approved, this General-Secretariat has a large role in influencing how countries will achieve these goals.