



THIS WEEK:

Secretary-General António Guterres

15-19 May 2017

Opening of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

The Secretary-General was in Beijing over the weekend where he attended the Belt and Road Forum on International Cooperation. In his remarks to the forum, the Secretary-General said that for the first time in human history, the world has at its disposal sufficient resources and advanced technologies to end extreme poverty, to reduce inequalities and to place the planet on a sustainable trajectory. He stressed the need to strengthen links between the Belt and Road Initiative and Sustainable Development Goals.

As projects under the initiative unfold, the Secretary-General called on all to work together to uphold international environmental and social standards, and to ensure that the benefits reach beyond cities into rural areas. With the initiative expected to generate vast investments in infrastructure, the Secretary-General identified this as an opportunity to help countries make the transition to clean-energy and low-carbon pathways. He stressed



China's leadership on climate change and engagement is a central pillar of multilateralism and more necessary than ever today.

While in Beijing, he met with several members of the Chinese Government, including Premier Li Keqiang, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Public Security Minister Guo Shengkun and State Councilor Yang Jiechi. He also held a series of bilateral meetings with a number of other leaders in attendance.

Read his remarks at the opening of the Forum: <http://bit.ly/2rjGVM0>

Read his remarks at the Forum's Leaders Roundtable: <http://bit.ly/2qnFZs2>



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Meeting with Her Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

On Monday, the Secretary-General met with H. E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, on the margins of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

The Secretary-General and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi discussed the United Nations' support to the democratic transition in Myanmar, the peace process and the way to a fair solution addressing the root causes of the current crisis in Rakhine State.

(Photo: Office of the State Counsellor)



Meeting with Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic



The Secretary-General travelled to Paris on Tuesday, where he met with French President Emmanuel Macron. They discussed topics of mutual concern pertaining to peace and security, human rights and sustainable development, and the Secretary-General expressed his commitment to working with the new president on these pressing issues.

17 May: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

On Wednesday, the Secretary-General showed his support for Free&Equal, an initiative of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Secretary-General retweeted a video from its "Culture of Love" campaign, which he called an important reminder "that culture & tradition should bring us together, not drive us apart."

See the tweet here:

<https://twitter.com/antonioguterres/status/864815713378332672>



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Plenary Session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg

The Secretary-General spoke Wednesday to Members of the European Parliament in a Plenary Session in Strasbourg. A strong and effective European Union is essential to a strong and effective United Nations, he said. The Secretary-General also stressed the need for Governments, local authorities, civil society and religious authorities to foster social cohesion, inclusivity and tolerance.

The Secretary-General and the President of the European Parliament, Mr. Antonio Tajani, then held a joint press



conference, during which he stressed the need for a united Europe to support the search for global solutions, as no issue today can be solved without global cooperation. He also took the opportunity to meet with the leaders of the different political groups of the European Parliament.

Read the transcript of the press conference: <http://bit.ly/2rrFHhK>

Reaction to the launch of a ballistic missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On Monday, the Secretary-General condemned the launch of another ballistic missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). He stressed that the action, which took place on Sunday, was in violation of the Security Council resolutions and posed a threat to the peace and security of the region. He called on the DPRK to ensure full compliance with its international obligations and return to the path of denuclearization.

Senior Appointments

On Monday, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Ovais Sarmad of India as Deputy Executive Secretary of the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Mr. Sarmad currently serves as Chief of Staff to the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, which he joined in 1990.

Read the full statement here: <http://bit.ly/2pPRrIR>