

# Notes for Canadian Committee for UNESCO

May 7, 2009

Ottawa

## Canada's UN Achievements

1. Iraq war
  - keeping Canada out,
  - seeking compromise to prevent war
2. International Criminal Court
  - Preventing a permanent exemption for the US and other P5
3. Responsibility to Protect

## What Is Wrong With the UN?

*"We have met the enemy and he is us" Pogo via Walt Kelly*

1. No one is in charge
2. Managerial Accountability versus governance accountability
3. the UN as a club, run by its members, not a global government
  - The Secretary-General, a cross between a Pope and a deputy minister
    - According to Article 97, the chief administrative officer, not CEO, much less President
  - The Security Council, not a cabinet and not accountable in practice to the Secretary General or to the General Assembly
    - Representativeness versus efficiency,
    - But effectiveness?
  - The General Assembly—seems more a rabble than a parliament—but the institution of the weak
    - The NAM and the G77 and the spoilers
    - Payers and Payees
    - The Swedish Initiative
4. Near total lack of consensus
  - North and South priorities: development versus security
  - Arabs versus Israelis
  - Iran and Israel
  - Darfur and the Congo, inter alia, (and no political will)
  - North Korea versus its neighbours

- Pakistan, Afghanistan and India
- US predominance--improving with President Obama
  - Susan Rice vs John Bolton

5. New York versus the field
6. New York and other UN bodies
7. Human Rights Council

### **What Is Right with the UN?**

1. Jaw-jaw
2. World's central operating system
3. International law
4. the norm against aggression
5. Nuclear Non-Proliferation
6. UNICEF
7. UNHCR
8. WFP
9. Peace Keeping
10. The mundane

### **Innovations**

1. OCHA
2. Peace building
3. International Legal System
4. Sustainable Development
5. Human Rights Treaties