

# Global Vision

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THE UNITED NATIONS 63RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

# Quietly effecting change

BY JEFFREY BRADFORD PH.D

**It has no tax raising powers, standing army or territory but despite this the United Nations is working quietly to bring change to the nations of the world. From its headquarters in New York City, diplomatic representatives meet to discuss the substantive issues of the day, learning and articulating to other nations their position, making compromises and occasionally shifting views on the topics of the day to shape policies to which their countries can stand in support of.**



GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONSIDERS CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF UNDP ADMINISTRATOR ©UN PHOTO



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (ECOSOC) SPECIAL HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON FINANCIAL CRISIS ©UN PHOTO



SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST ©UN PHOTO



SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSES SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN ©UN PHOTO



GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PREPARES FOR FINANCIAL CRISIS DEBATE CLOSING ©UN PHOTO

Each session of the General Assembly is similar to a parliamentary year in the United Kingdom, starting with the Annual opening in September, akin to the Queen's opening of Parliament in England. Leaders of the world congregate and conduct some highly useful networking on issues which they wish to see their delegated representatives move forward in the coming session.

September 2008 saw the commencement of the 63rd annual session of the UN General Assembly. At the iconic meeting chamber world leaders articulated their hopes and aspirations for what could be achieved in the

months ahead. Once this event passes and the leaders head for other events such as the Clinton Global Initiative what then happens at the Assembly?

Six main committees take the strategic direction given to them by their Heads of State at the annual summit and six committees pick up the baton and work diligently to push new initiatives. The six main committees are; The First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee) which is concerned with disarmament and related international security questions and chaired by Marco Antonio Suarez of Honduras;

The Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee) chaired by H.E. Mrs. Uche Joy Ogwu of Nigeria is concerned with economic questions;

Under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Frank Majoor, the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations, the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee) deals with social and humanitarian issues;

Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee) deals with a variety of political subjects not dealt with by the

First Committee, as well as with decolonization and completed its current work in November 2008;

Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary Committee) deals with the administration and budget of the United Nations;

Lastly the Sixth Committee (Legal Committee) deals with international legal matters and every member state is entitled to participate.

For further details concerning the activities of the United Nations General Assembly please see [www.un.org/ga](http://www.un.org/ga)