

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND RELATED BODIES, IV

## 2009 (continued)

**“A Libyan motion calling for the dismemberment of Switzerland was rejected by the United Nations about a month ago.** A UN spokesman ... told the Swiss News Agency that Libya had submitted the proposal for discussion by the General Assembly. ... [But it was rejected from the General Assembly’s agenda, since] according to the U.N.] charter, no member country can threaten the existence or sovereignty of another. ...

**[A] Swiss parliamentarian,** Christa Markwalder had said ... that Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi intended to present the proposal to the United Nations General Assembly, which he is due to address on September 23. ... [She] **expressed concern that Libya would use its forthcoming year-long presidency of the UN General Assembly to damage Switzerland's reputation.**

**Gaddafi** first mentioned the idea of dismemberment during the G8 summit in Italy in July. **Switzerland ‘is a world mafia and not a state’, he said,** adding that it was ‘formed of an Italian community that should return to Italy, another German community that should return to Germany, and a third French community that should return to France.’

“Libyan anti-Swiss motion rejected”, [swissinfo.ch](http://swissinfo.ch), **September 3, 2009.**

“Col Muammar **Gaddafi's Libya proposed a UN motion calling for the abolition of Switzerland after a dispute over the arrest of one of the president's sons,** it has emerged.

The incident followed a diplomatic dispute after Hannibal Gaddafi and his wife Aline, were held by police in July 2008, accused of **assaulting their servants at a Geneva hotel.**

The couple were freed on bail after two days in custody. **The complaint against them was dropped** after a lawyer for their servants ... said they had received an undisclosed amount in compensation.

**Gaddafi retaliated by** closing Swiss businesses in Libya, arresting Swiss nationals and throwing the country’s diplomats out. He also suspended oil deliveries to Switzerland and withdrew assets worth nearly £4 billion from Swiss banks. The Swiss Foreign Ministry described it as **a single-minded campaign against Swiss interests.**

Swiss president Hans-Rudolf Merz, travelled to the Libyan capital, Tripoli, to deliver a personal apology, infuriating many Swiss who felt their country should have stood its ground.”

“Libya called for Switzerland to be abolished”, [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk), **04 September 2009.**

“[Libya’s colonel **Muammer Gaddafi**] is now ... preparing to visit New York as a Libyan takes over the presidency of the United Nations General Assembly. The Swiss daily Le Temps recently described Mr Gaddafi as a ‘master of manipulation.’ But **western politicians and businessmen** are not being outsmarted by Col Gaddafi. They **are caving in to him.** ...

There is a standard Gaddafi method that was visible in both the Swiss and Scottish [release of an ailing Libyan terrorist from Scotland] cases. Right and wrong are put to one side, and only bargaining chips remain. ...

Col Gaddafi ... means to sully [the West's] good name and expose its corruption, which is part of what he and his fellow officers professed to be revolting about in 1969.

In this **he has succeeded, ... [in revealing] that there are exceptions to the 'norms' of international law.** ... [He can travel freely] while Chilean generalissimos and Balkan strongmen cannot. ... There is impunity under Swiss law for certain playboys, [and] Scots nationalism is either ... British weakness or an avenue of diplomatic corruption.

**[In short], reintegrating Libya into the international community is likely to be done on Libya's terms.**

Christopher Caldwell, "The West plays Gaddafi's game", The Weekly Standard (US), **September 4, 2009.** [Note: the above ongoing story is both farcical (see items 1213a,b in IO Watch [Overview section XXI](#)), but a very aggressive challenge to global economic cooperation and meaningful global governance going forward. (see the next 3 and 5<sup>th</sup> items which follow.)]

... “[Among the heads of state **at this year's General Assembly** will be] **leaders distinguished by unparalleled longevity in office and general intolerance for dissent.** ...

[Libya's Muammar el-Qaddafi ... and Equatorial Guinea's president Teodoro Obiang will speak at the opening session.] ... Their exceptional staying power [of 40 years and 30 years respectively] is a political curiosity, but comes at a steep price. Despite enormous ... natural energy resources, ... [their countries] remain deeply impoverished. ...

The leadership longevity list includes some of the world's most ruthless and ossified governments. ... **Of 20 countries fitting the leader-for-life mold, all are designated as Not Free in Freedom House's annual media freedom survey. ... [On corruption], virtually all of these countries are in the bottom quarter of the 180 countries reviewed by Transparency International.** ...

Some argue that ... [authoritarian tight control can deliver stability. But scholars document] the relationship between free and independent news media and reduced levels of corruption, greater governmental effectiveness, stronger rule of law and generally better development results.

Whatever stability exists in these settings all too often entails **grinding poverty** for most citizens and a dependence on the dubious management skills of **aging autocrats.**

Christopher Walker, "Hanging on", International Herald Tribune, **September 10, 2009.**

**"President Barack Obama's UN debut is fast approaching. But two problems** are putting a wrench in his plans. Iranian president **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and** Libyan president **Col. Moammar Qaddafi** ... are coming to the [General Assembly session.] ...

The Security Council agenda items for September had included 'nuclear non-proliferation — Iran.' ... But after inviting heads of state and government to join him [when he presides at a Security Council session, thus including Col Qaddafi], ... Obama set a new agenda ... 'focused on nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament broadly.' ...

In UN circles ['disarmament broadly' changes] the subject from preventing Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons to disarming Israel and the United States. Fine and dandy with Ahmadinejad.

... Meanwhile, Libya is a member of the Security Council, and Qaddafi is looking for a hug (literally). So now Obama's people are worrying about how to avoid ... [embracing] a man whom Americans understand to be a human-rights low-life extraordinaire.

On September 23 Obama will ... speak before the General Assembly. But Libya is [also] the president of this year's General Assembly, resulting in a speaker order that makes Obama into Qaddafi's warm-up act."

Anne Bayefsky, "Obama's dangerous UN dalliance", EyeontheUN.org, **September 10, 2009.**

"Protracted efforts to create **a landmark new UN 'super-agency' for women** face a critical weekend as four opposed countries have sprung a diplomatic ambush that could effectively kill it off.

**The general assembly was set to ratify the new agency** – which would have a budget of around \$1bn and consolidate four existing bodies that deal with women's issues – before its current session concludes on Monday. **But Egypt, Cuba, Sudan and Iran have mounted a last-minute campaign to delay ratification.** ...

Significant progress had been made in the run-up to this year's general assembly. But Egypt now argues that other issues addressed [by Kofi Annan's 2005 panel] – the UN's governance and finance – have taken a back seat in favour of the women's agency. It says its creation should wait until progress has been made on these other fronts.

**The gang of four are in a position to block the will of the majority** as the UN general assembly's 192 members – especially the G77 group of developing countries – are notoriously reluctant to hold a vote when a consensus is lacking.

**The last-minute delaying tactics have sparked outrage from non-governmental groups,** who fear that yet another delay will shelve the idea indefinitely.”

Mark Tran, “Diplomatic ambush threatens UN 'super-agency' for women: Last-minute campaign by four countries with poor record on women's rights could kill plans for high commission”, [guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk), **11 September 2009.**

**“After more than three years of political foot-dragging, the 192-member General Assembly adopted a historic resolution Monday aimed at creating a new U.N. agency for women.**

The decision to create a separate powerful body to deal exclusively with gender-related activities comes years - or decades - after the United Nations created specialised agencies to deal with specific issues. ...

When the new women's agency is created, **perhaps by the middle of next year**, it will be headed by an under-secretary-general (USG). ... The Assembly also requested Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to ... [propose details] ; an organisational chart; funding for the new body; and the composition of the executive board to oversee its operational activities.

An Oxfam official deplored ‘the attitude of some member states to weaken its mandate at the last minute.’ ... [And] a coalition of over 300 international NGO's ... Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) ... said that **member states must address in a timely fashion all the outstanding issues required** for the entity to begin operations, ...

**[Further,] donor countries need to pledge the substantial funding (about one billion dollars)** to support the proposed strong field operation that the entity must have to be successful.”

Thalif Deen, “U.N. approves long-awaited new women's agency”, [IPS](http://ips.com), **September 14, 2009.**

**“Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki of Libya, the newly-anointed president of the 192-member U.N. General Assembly,** hails from a country with a mostly radical and far-reaching political agenda. ...

Addressing the General Assembly ... , Treki reiterated some of the political precepts [of his unpredictable leader, [Muammar el-Qaddafi], who currently chairs the [African Union.] ...

[Treki is] pushing for a stronger political role for the General Assembly in an institution where the most powerful body is the 15-member Security Council voicing the views of a microscopic minority at the United Nations. ...

**‘All of us believe that the United Nations is in need of reform and democratisation,’ he told delegates Tuesday.** ... Treki argued that the Assembly must be reformed to regain its international legitimacy by ensuring that its voice is heard and respected, and its resolutions implemented.

At the General Assembly sessions **last September, Libyan Ambassador Giadalla Ettalhi called for the convening of a high-level meeting of the Assembly devoted solely to the issue of U.N. reform.** ...

‘With the presidency of the Assembly in its hands’ ... says an Asian diplomat, **‘if Libya runs true to form, ... there'll never be a dull moment through next September.’**

Thalif Deen, “Libya Brings Focused Agenda to U.N. Presidency”, [IPS](http://ips.com), **September 17, 2009.**

"This week, **Secretary General Ban Ki-moon** intends to present [General Assembly] members with a ... [biennial] budget that he claims ... [is stingy]: just \$4.9 billion, a trifling 0.5 percent increase. ...

In fact, ... [he **is**] **the biggest spender in U.N. history**. ... The U.N. Secretariat is actually **planning on an eye-popping \$13.9 billion in 'regular' and 'extra-budgetary' spending in its 2010 and 2011 budget**, ... [up by some \$968 million and] likely to grow much bigger as it is adjusted upward during the two year period, as it inevitably is. ...

Even the \$13.9 billion number does not include ... [some big UN] organizations, which submit their own budgets to separate panels, [including \$6 billion a year at] the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). ...

[This is] **a dramatic break with past efforts** of major donor countries ... **to enforce tougher fiscal discipline**. ... [Led by] developing countries, the U.N. General Assembly abandoned a 20-year tradition of adopting its budgets only by consensus — and ... [approved the 2008-2009 budget 142-1.] The only No vote came from the U.S. ...

Will the Obama Administration ... find the continuing U.N. spendfest a problem? It remains to be seen."

George Russell, "U.N. budget: Would you believe \$13.9 billion?", Fox News, **September 17, 2009**. [Note: as usual in his articles, Mr. Russell provides an excellent and detailed analysis of these non-transparent Secretariat funding manipulations and budget busting, see at [www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com), under "World" then "United Nations" and "archives."]

**"A grandiose, five-year effort to ... [reform a \$778 million UN conference and meetings bureaucracy, according to a new Office of Internal Oversight Services report], so far has been a near-total failure.** ...

[It found that a] much-touted "Integrated Global Management Initiative ... [had **produced**] **'no progress or change', ... [no cost savings, no top management effort to establish accountability for performance, and dubious data** given to OIOS for evaluation.] ...

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[The] Secretariat's Department of General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) ... [has some 2,100 people headquartered in New York City and in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi. It provides technical support, advice, publications, and translation for some 219 'entities' worldwide and 21,300 meetings annually, all in a very fragmented effort.]

**[At General Assembly urging, in 2004,** the Global Initiative established nine separate task forces, then a massive 'living document' compendium which was ignored, then **in 2006** three separate information technology projects. The main problem, however, is the continuing management fragmentation among the four major offices.] ...

[In a **July 2009** report, Ban-Ki-moon reported that DGACM had 'pushed ahead,' but **admitted 'challenges' that would 'require further redesigning and implementation in 2010.'**"]

George Russell, "'Reform' is just a word at the U.N., its own investigation shows", Fox News, **October 9, 2009**.

**"While the occupant of the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly changes each year, the same cannot be said for practices like nepotism and lack of transparency.** Under the previous President, Nicaragua's Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, *Inner City Press* found ... [he had two] relatives, nephew Michael Clark and niece Sofia Clark, in the Office.

Now, **new President Ali Treki of ... [Libya's cousin and his daughter Amal Ali Treki are] working in the Office.** ... The post of President of the General Assembly is the highest, at least technically, in the UN system. But it is run like a family business. ...

[By whom] and how much President Treki gets paid ... has yet to be answered. ... Two presidencies ago, Srgjan Kerim left unanswered who paid him -- a private company called WAZ Media -- and how much (reputed at \$400,000). ...

**Treki** has been embroiled in controversies, some by choice and some by happenstance. ... **[On September 18 he called homosexuality] 'not acceptable,'** not only by him but by 'two billion Muslims and... Buddists and Jews.' ... [After criticism, he stood by his comments, which] many of his own staff counseled him against."

Matthew Russell Lee, "UN Assembly President Treki hires daughter and cousin, for family values", Inner City Press, **October 14, 2009**.

To be continued ...