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San Diego Chapter of U.N. Association Turns 70 Assistant Secretary-General & Deputy Director U.N. Women Visits San Diego

San Diego, California, October 14, 2016 – the United Nations Association of the United States of America, San Diego Chapter (UNA-USA San Diego) announces the 2016 Celebration of United Nations Day as the highlight of its 70th Chapter Anniversary. The community is invited to a Luncheon on **Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 11 AM to 2 PM** at the Prado Restaurant, Grand Ballroom in Balboa Park. The luncheon will be co-hosted by San Diego District Governor, Rotary International, Marilyn Sanderson and with NBC reporter, Bridget Naso as the Masters of Ceremony.

The year 2016 is an important one to UNA-USA San Diego as it marks seventy years of unwavering advocacy work for the United Nations. In a recent letter, former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan congratulated the Chapter on its seventieth anniversary. Mr. Annan thanked the local Association for “engaging diverse audiences within the San Diego community on the Sustainable Development Goals ... for support and commitment to the mission and work of the UN” and wished “best of luck for the next 70 years and beyond.”

Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and great champion of the Association visited the Chapter frequently. She signed the organization’s office lease in Balboa Park, House of Hospitality, in 1953 and returned years later to further secure UNA-USA San Diego’s a physical presence with the UN Building, steps away from the International Cottages. Over the past decades the organization has increased public visibility of the UN locally and nationally with the executive and legislative branches of the US government in Washington, DC. It proudly collaborates with community partners while living into UNA-USA San Diego’s mission to locally educate, advocate and mobilize for a Culture of Peace and Global Citizenship.

In celebrating the Chapter’s seventieth anniversary “we recognize our hard-working volunteers and dedicated leadership team in supporting local grassroots efforts for a globally inclusive community based in justice, dignity and freedom with education for all” according to Bettina Hausmann, President and CEO of the local UN Association. “We are proud to welcome and honor UN Assistant Secretary-General Lakshmi Puri with the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award for her instrumental involvement within the Commission on Human Rights, her work in Bosnia and Herzegovina and her participation in the Indo-Sri Lankan peace agreement.” The award further recognizes her commitment to creating peaceful and more inclusive societies rooted in gender equity and economic empowerment in her current work as Deputy Executive Director, UN Women.

With *One Humanity – Shared Responsibility* the guest list further includes **USD’s Women PeaceMakers** from Kenya, Pakistan, Western Sahara and Nigeria, Kathi Anderson, **Chair of San Diego Refugee Forum** and advisory board member, Ford Roosevelt, grandson of President Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt. Festive atmosphere is provided by twenty members of the **SDSU Community Music School String Academy**.

In Commemoration of UNA-USA San Diego’s seventieth anniversary, thanks to the **City of San Diego and Parks & Recreation**, all lights in Balboa Park will shine in UN colors, light blue, on October 22, 2016.

Event Information & Registration [UN Day 2016](#)

For all media inquiries & interview requests, contact Bettina Hausmann +1 805 403 4773

About UNA-USA San Diego

As a program of the UN Foundation, UNA-USA San Diego is the local Ambassador to and for the United Nations. With its prestigious consultative status to the United Nations, UNA-USA San Diego links the local community with the United Nations and vice versa since 1999. As a Center for Policy Research, the organization is expanding on the understanding of global issues through advocacy and mobilization for actions to influence legislation in supporting the principles and vital work of the United Nations. UNA-USA San Diego actively engages partners and stakeholders locally since 1946.

Helping the UN Help the World