



ACADEMIC COUNCIL
ON THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

**Dr. Franz Baumann, President
Academic Council on the
United Nations System
Thursday, 9 April 2026**

Dear Members of the ACUNS Community,

The United Nations system – indeed multilateralism as a concept – is in a profound crisis, and the world at large suffers from many wars and violent conflicts. Instead of upholding the UN Charter two of the five permanent members of the Security Council violate the Charter and [ignore international law](#). Development and humanitarian assistance is dwindling, the financial support for the United Nations is plummeting and the Organization is largely irrelevant in the wars in the Middle East, Ukraine and the Hindu Kush, in the civil wars in Sudan and the DRC, and in the crises in Venezuela, Cuba, Ethiopia, Myanmar and elsewhere.

ACUNS is an asset not only to its membership but to the global community as we seek to find solutions to the threats and challenges facing the UN system and to do so in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

Having joined ACUNS in 1994, it has been my honour to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, as Vice President and as President. During my tenure, I was proud to advance the purposes of ACUNS including by expanding partnerships, diversifying membership and supporting fundraising. For the past years, I have been fortunate to work with an outstanding Executive Director, Dr. Martha Thomas, whose family obligations required her abroad. Her successor, Dr. Sandra Tombe has assumed the position, hit the ground running and I wish her every success.

The Annual Meetings in Tokyo (2024) and Nairobi (2025) were great, and this year's in Lisbon will be, too. The June workshop in Almaty is lined up, as is next year's in Aberdeen. The relationship with the *Global Governance* publisher is strong. In short, this is a good time for me to hand over the presidency.

As a former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, former Special Adviser on Environment and Peace Operations and currently an Executive Editor of [Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development](#), I want to devote my time to efforts to save our planet from climate change and to protect its life-giving ecosystems.

I hereby submit my resignation as President of the ACUNS effective COB today and am honoured to continue serving ACUNS as President Emeritus and, more importantly, as your fellow member. I wish ACUNS well.

Sincerely,

Franz Baumann