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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: May 26, 2011 | 089-11

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## Leading international scholars on the UN system gather in Waterloo June 2-4

WATERLOO, CANADA – A senior official with the U.S. State Department will deliver the opening keynote address as international scholars on the United Nations system convene June 2-4 at Wilfrid Laurier University and The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada to discuss the future of multilateralism.

Suzanne Nossel, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of International Organization Affairs at the U.S. State Department, will lead off the 24th annual meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) with an address entitled, “Smart Power at the UN”.

ACUNS is a professional association of educational and research institutions and individual scholars, teachers, and practitioners active in the work and study of multilateral relations, global governance, and international cooperation. The association’s 24th annual meeting, which will focus on “new forms of multilateralism” and the role of the UN within an increasingly complex global governance system, is organized by ACUNS, CIGI, The Stanley Foundation, and Wilfrid Laurier University.

“ACUNS is very pleased to hold its meeting in Waterloo to coincide with Wilfrid Laurier University’s centennial year celebrations,” said Alistair Edgar, Executive Director of ACUNS. “The excellent partnership with CIGI and The Stanley Foundation allows us to bring leading experts from the academic and practitioner communities here to discuss critical issues in contemporary global governance, and to host a meeting of 300 innovative researchers together to exchange their ideas and experiences.”

Suzanne Nossel has served as U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State since Aug. 31, 2009. Previously, she was Chief Operating Officer for Human Rights Watch. From 1999 to 2001, she served as Senior Advisor to U.S. Ambassador Richard C. Holbrook at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. She has written extensively on foreign policy topics, and her foreign affairs experience includes work on South Africa’s National Peace Accord, and monitoring elections and human rights conditions in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Other highlights of ACUNS annual meeting include:

- “Ideas that Matter: Governance, Security, and Development.” A roundtable discussion featuring Thomas Tiekou (CIGI), Thomas G. Weiss (Ralph Branch Institute), Hugh Dugan (United States Mission to the UN), Lorraine Elliott (Australian National University), and Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary, Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization.
- “The New Geometry of Summitry: Universal versus Functional Issues Management.” A roundtable discussion featuring Barry Carin (CIGI Senior Fellow), Shin-wha Lee (Korea University) and Sam Daws (University of Oxford).
- “Adaptive Leadership and Values for Global Citizenship.” A roundtable discussion featuring David Shorr (The Stanley Foundation), Ted Piccone (Brookings Institution) and Maria Rublee (University of Auckland).

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- “The United Nations and Public-Private Partnerships.” A roundtable discussion featuring Roger A. Coate (Georgia College and State University), Melissa Powell (UN Global Compact) and Catia Gregoratti (Lund University), Maher Nasser (Director, Outreach Division, UN Department of Public Information).
- “The Kofi Annan Papers.” A luncheon discussion featuring Louise Fréchette (CIGI), Jean Krasno (Yale University) and Jean-Marie Guéhenno (Director, Center for International Conflict Resolution, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University).
- “Multilateralism in a Copernican World.” The John W. Holmes Memorial Lecture, by Bruce W. Jentleson (Duke University).

ACUNS will host its events at Wilfrid Laurier University, except for the morning of June 4 when ACUNS’ partner CIGI will host a plenary roundtable. The Stanley Foundation also is sponsoring a plenary roundtable to be held at CIGI. The three-day event will also include an evening reception.

Event sessions are open to ACUNS members as well as non-members, but require registration through ACUNS’s website: [www.acuns.org](http://www.acuns.org). The annual meeting’s sessions being held at CIGI on June 4 will be webcast, at no cost, to a global audience via registration with ACUNS. For further details, please visit <http://www.cigionline.org/project/multiple-multilateralisms> or [www.acuns.org](http://www.acuns.org).

### **About ACUNS**

The Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) is a professional association of educational and research institutions and individual scholars, teachers, and practitioners active in the work and study of multilateral relations, global governance, and international cooperation. Through its core activities ACUNS stimulates, supports, and disseminates research and analysis on the United Nations, multilateralism, and international organization. ACUNS also promotes teaching on these topics, as well as dialogue and mutual understanding across and between the academic and practitioner communities. A special effort is made to ensure that advanced research conducted in universities finds its way into the programs of the UN system. For more information, please visit [www.acuns.org](http://www.acuns.org).

### **About Wilfrid Laurier University**

Wilfrid Laurier University is a leading Canadian university specializing in arts and social sciences, business and economics, music, science, education, social work and theology. Tracing its roots to 1911, Laurier now has nearly 17,000 students studying at campuses in Waterloo and Brantford, and at related sites in Kitchener and Toronto. Laurier is a founding partner in the Balsillie School of International Affairs and has hosted the Academic Council on the United Nations System since 2003. For more information, please visit [www.wlu.ca](http://www.wlu.ca).

### **About CIGI**

The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) is an independent, nonpartisan think tank on international governance. Led by experienced practitioners and distinguished academics, CIGI supports research, forms networks, advances policy debate and generates ideas for multilateral governance improvements. Conducting an active agenda of research, events and publications, CIGI’s interdisciplinary work includes collaboration with policy, business and academic communities around the world. CIGI was founded in 2001 by Jim Balsillie, co-CEO of RIM (Research In Motion), and collaborates with and gratefully acknowledges support from a number of strategic partners, in particular the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. For more information, please visit [www.cigionline.org](http://www.cigionline.org).

### **About The Stanley Foundation**

The Stanley Foundation seeks a secure peace with freedom and justice, built on world citizenship and effective global governance. It brings fresh voices, original ideas, and lasting solutions to debates on global and regional problems. The foundation is a nonpartisan, private operating foundation, located in Muscatine, Iowa, that focuses on peace and security issues and advocates principled multilateralism. Online at [www.stanleyfoundation.org](http://www.stanleyfoundation.org).