

UN agency and Chinese bike-share firm team up to raise awareness about climate change



Li Zekun, Vice President of Marketing (left), and Mr. Dai Wei, Founder and CEO of ofo, a Beijing-based start-up company that has become the world's first and largest bike-sharing platform. Photo: UNDP/Freya Moralesofo

25 April 2017 – The United Nations development agency is teaming up with ofo, a China-based bike sharing platform, to raise public awareness about climate change, it was announced today.

“This is an [innovative partnership](#) which will make real strides towards protecting our precious environment,” said Michael O’Neill, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of External Relations at the UN Development Programme ([UNDP](#)).

Ofo, which is recognized by yellow bicycles in China, Singapore and the United States, will also donate its income on the 17th of the month to celebrate the universally approved 17 Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)). The [SDGs](#) are a to-do list to wipe out poverty, fight inequality and tackle climate change by 2030.

The funding will be used to provide financial support “to innovative projects that address urban environmental challenges,” according to a press release.

The includes creating campaign messages about how each and every person can reduce CO2 emissions.

UNDP and ofo have also said that they will establish a scholarship program for environment research and start-ups offering green products and technologies.

In addition, ofo will share abandoned bikes with children in rural areas to improve their access to education.

South Sudan’s political process ‘not dead’ but needs ‘resuscitation’ – UN

envoy

25 April 2017 – The political process in South Sudan is not dead but requires significant resuscitation, the head of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the crisis-torn country told the Security Council today.

“Regrettably, no party has shown interest in reviving the Peace Agreement,” said David Shearer, the Secretary-General’s Special Representative and the head of UN Mission in South Sudan ([UNMISS](#)), referring to the August 2015 accord between the country’s warring sides.

Despite the peace agreement, South Sudan slipped back into conflict due to renewed clashes between rival forces – the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) loyal to President Salva Kiir and the SPLA in Opposition backing former First Vice-President Riek Machar.

Mr. Shearer explained that unlike this time last year, where the conflict was construed on a bipolar basis, today the opposition has splintered, making it necessary for UN peacebuilding efforts to be more widely cast than previously.

He told the 15-member Council that, “virtually no part of the country is immune from conflict. Yet, there has been no concerted effort by any party to adhere to a ceasefire. Instead, we are seeing an intensification of the conflict over the past month.”

Mr. Shearer said that in some of the violence, Government forces have responded to attacks by opposition forces, notably in Wau and the Equatorias. In others, in contrast, Government-led operations such as those in Upper Nile and Jonglei appeared “more strategic in focus” and were aimed at taking opposition-held areas.