

WORLD AGENDA

MARCH 2010

1 March 7, Baghdad: Iraq goes to the polls amid increasing tensions between once dominant Sunnis and majority Shi'ite Muslims. The general election is regarded as a crucial test for Iraq's national reconciliation process ahead of a planned U.S. military withdrawal in August

2 Mar 22-23, New York: An international donors' conference aims to raise funds to rebuild Haiti after the January 12 earthquake which killed more than 230,000 people and left more than one million homeless. The rebuild cost has been estimated at \$14 billion

3 Mar 4, Washington: The U.S. risks alienating Turkey when a congressional panel votes on labelling the World War One massacre of Armenians by Turkish forces as "genocide". Approval would require President **Barack Obama** to use the term in his annual address in April

4 March, Washington: North Korea's chief nuclear envoy may visit the United States in a sign Pyongyang could return to nuclear disarmament talks a year after abandoning them. **Kim Kye-gwan's** last U.S. trip three years ago led to the disarmament-for-aid deal

7 Mar 1, Warsaw: Music lovers around the world celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Polish-French composer **Frederic Chopin**

5 Mar 13-25, Qatar: A proposal to ban international trade in Atlantic bluefin tuna is voted on by 175 countries at a **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species** meeting. Stocks have declined by over 80% since 1970

8 March, Phnom Penh: A verdict in the first trial of a senior Khmer Rouge cadre is expected. **Kaing Guek Eav** is accused of sending 14,000 Cambodians to their deaths during the 1970s

6 March, Quito: Vice President **Lenin Moreno** travels to Iran, Turkey and Dubai seeking support for the

Yasuni pact, under which countries pay Ecuador not to drill for oil in the Amazon. The initiative means leaving 840m barrels of oil untouched

