



# Women's Federation for World Peace International

United Nations Office Newsletter

Fall 2010

## Advance Global Health, Achieve the MDGs

### 63rd Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference

August 30 - September 1, 2010 - Melbourne, Australia



By Jynene Helland, Vice President for Oceania Region of WFWP International



From August 30 to September 1, more than 1,600 delegates from over 70 nations, representing 350 NGOs, met in Melbourne, Australia for the 63rd Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference. The theme of this year's conference was Advance Global Health, Achieve the MDGs. This is the 3rd Annual DPI/NGO conference to be held outside New York. The location gave many NGOs in the Pacific region the opportunity to participate and network. WFWPI set up an exhibit for the conference on Indigenous Health also showcasing the many WFWPI projects and activities worldwide aimed at creating community health and wellbeing. Seven delegates from WFWPI Australia attended.

Dr. Mary Norton, the chair of the conference, outlined her desire for a broad and holistic approach to health in the Vision

Statement, stating "This Conference should emphasise the multidisciplinary, multifaceted issues in fostering health, not just managing disease". A sentiment Princess Muna al-Hussein of Jordan, honorary advisor to the World Health Organization Collaborating Centres for Nursing Development, commended in her address during the closing ceremony via video message. Throughout the conference this diverse approach was evident, the goal being to achieve a sense of wellbeing for all. As it has been pointed out by both the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Margaret Chan:

*"Health is the tie that binds all of the Millennium Development Goals together. If we fail to meet our target on health, we will never overcome poverty, illiteracy, achieve universal education and meet the other MDG challenges."*

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Fifty five workshops were held over the 3 days covering a wide range of topics and 57 NGOs had exhibits presenting a good opportunity for NGOs to network, facilitating future partnering. The program also included 4 Round table sessions:

1. The Role of the NGOs and Civil Society in Helping Achieve the MDGs
2. Equity, Rights and Progress towards the MDGs
3. Strengthening an Integrated and Systems Approach to Achieving the Health MDGs
4. Achieving the MDGs in Our Changing World.

Delegates had the opportunity to put questions to the panel of speakers at the end of each session.

During the conference delegates had the opportunity to comment on and contribute to the development of a Declaration which will be presented at the UN MDG Summit to be held September 20-22, 2010. During the Closing session the delegates voted overwhelmingly in agreement with the final Declaration read out by the Conference Chair, Dr. Mary Norton. Mr. Tim Costello, CEO of World Vision

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## Statement of Purpose

The Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) supports a network of National WFWPI Chapters worldwide.

WFWPI Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our societies and world.

Ultimately "solutions" come as **true** partnerships between men and women are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society's most elemental level—the family.

Peace then expands into our communities, nation and world. Therefore, WFWPI works to provide women worldwide with:

**the knowledge, tools and support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities, our nations and our world.**

WFWPI International is a non-profit, non-governmental international organization in General Consultative Status of ECOSOC and DPI Associates with the United Nations

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# At the UN in New York...

## Reports of NGO Briefings

### Impact of Migration on Families Around the World

In Observance of the International Day of Families - May 15

May 13, 2010 - UN Church Center, New York

*By Merly Barrette Barlaan*

According to Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, rising social and economic disparities create both pressures and incentives for people to leave their homes. Many migrate due to poverty, unemployment, political or armed conflicts or violation of human rights. Moderator by Ms. Gail Bindley-Taylor Sainte; Information Officer, NGO Relations, Department of Public Information (DPI) informed that an estimated 214 million people are international migrants today, 3.1% of the global population, including 20-30 million

who migrated without authorization from their country of destination. According to the World Migration Report 2008 of the International Organization for Migration, concern about family migration is increasing. Women are increasingly forced to migrate without their children.

H.E. Mr. Carlos D. Sorreta, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the UN explained the main reason Filipinos leave home is that jobs in the Philippines pay too little. Positive

**Migration continued on pg. 10**

### We Can End Poverty: The Millennium Development Goals at 10

Consequences of Female Genital Mutilation

May 20, 2010 - Salvation Army Auditorium, New York City

*By Cynthia Shibuya*

Moderator **Gail Bindley-Taylor Sainte**, Information Officer, NGO Relations, DPI opened by listing the MDGs and urging collaboration with all levels of society to reach those goals and confidence in the achievement of the MDGs. **Sering Falu Njie**, Deputy Director of Policy at the UN Millennium Campaign explained that in order to end poverty by 2015, policy change, media and public awareness and involvement of civil

society to hold governments accountable to achieving the MDGs are all required.

The grassroots is mobilizing and national level campaigns are underway in 25 countries. Campaign areas are: financial, legislative, trade, maternal health and debt relief.

**John McArthur**, Chief Executive Officer of Millennium Promise asked for input from the audience. Every country will have to support to reach their goals – malaria nets, school

**End Poverty, contd. on pg. 10**

### Many Species, One Planet, One Future

In Observance of World Environment Day - June 5 & Int'l Day of Biodiversity - May 22

June 3, 2010 - Salvation Army Auditorium, New York City

*By Merly Barrete-Barlaan*

According to Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's message on the International Day for Biological Diversity, "Communities everywhere will reap the negative consequences, but the poorest people and the most vulnerable countries will suffer most".

Biodiversity, is the term for "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, among other things, terrestrial,

marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part," according to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The food and water we consume and the air we breathe are dependent on this variety.

Ms. Maria-Luisa Chavez; Chief, NGO Relations, Department of Public Information (DPI) moderated the discussions. A film

**One Future, contd. on pg. 10**

### High Tide, High Crime: Piracy and other Crimes of the Sea

June 10, 2010 - UN HQ, New York City

*By Cynthia Shibuya*

DPI held a fascinating briefing on the issue of piracy in observance of World Oceans Day – June 8. Piracy and oceanic crimes are on the rise. These crimes are committed for economic gain, but have involved multiple hostages and deaths. Lack of rule of law and weak governance have been cited as root causes of piracy. The UN is working to stop it but to strike at the root of piracy, development issues must be addressed. Moderator **Maria-Luisa Chavez**,

Chief, NGO Relations, DPI opened the session with welcoming remarks and introduced the speakers.

**Shashi Kara** Programme Management Officer, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) cited UNODC's work in the areas of trafficking, financial crime, piracy, drugs and terrorism. Piracy has been on the rise since 2000 off the coast of Indonesia, the Gulf of Africa and Somalia, 500-1000 miles from shore.

**Piracy, contd. on pg. 10**

## Women's Human Rights and Development

Civil Society Development Forum 2010 - Sponsored by CONGO

May 4-5, 2010 - Salvation Army Auditorium, New York City

By Cynthia Shibuya

Forum presenters agreed that women must engage in leadership and policy-making for progress to occur. Women's Human Rights and Development were discussed in six areas: Legal and Institutional Mechanisms; Legislation, Implementation and Enforcement; Women and Climate Change and Sustainable Development; Labor and Migration; Violence against Women; Economics and Development, and Reproductive Rights. **Mr. Bautista**, President of CONGO explained this opportunity to contribute innovative concepts, policies and action steps toward the MDGs.

**H.E. Hamidon Ali**, President of ECOSOC, Keynote speaker emphasized the role of civil society in implementing gender equality

by applying pressure to governments and mobilizing the grassroots. All documents and agreements are in place but government implementation is needed. The path to achieving MDGs is very difficult but ECOSOC will work with NGOs to do that.

**Tonya Frichner**, American Indian Law Alliance presented on Indigenous women and their plight. Lack of access to clean water forces migration. Tradition forbids indigenous women to own land. When women are forced to migrate, they often go to urban areas and leave behind language, culture and traditions. Migrating women are vulnerable to bondage and trafficking. Domestic work has risks as no

**Women's Human Rights, contd. on pg. 11**

## High Level Segment/ARM - Substantive Session of ECOSOC

June 28 - July 2, 2010 - NY HQ, New York City

By Motoko Sugiyama

The High Level Segment (HLS) of 2010 focused on issues relevant to implementation of the UN development agenda. The four main events in HLS are: Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) from June 28 to July 1, Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) from June 29 to June 30, Thematic Debate on June 30 and High-Level policy dialogue on July 2.

The AMR focused on Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Progress made toward implementation of the UN development agenda and concrete initiatives to accelerate progress with a special focus on the goals and targets related to gender equality and empowerment of women were discussed. The Secretary General's 2010 Report provided the basis for discussion. The report reviews implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, the outcomes of the

twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its contribution in shaping a gender perspective toward realization of the MDGs. Thirteen countries presented progress reports toward the goals and targets of the UN Development Agenda. Featured keynote addresses covered gender-related issues with participation from Ministers of Gender Issues, Development Cooperation, Economics, Finance, Health, Foreign Affairs, Executive Heads of UN Agencies, Fund and Programs and representatives of civil society, private sector and academia.

The DCF focused on trends in international development cooperation and discussed aspects of promoting gender coherence, accountable and transparent development cooperation, the role of various forms of cooperation including South-South and triangular cooperation, the impact of multiple crises and achieving the MDGs by 2015.

**ECOSOC, continued on pg. 11**

## Interactive Hearing: GA with NGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector

June 14 - 15, 2010 - General Assembly Hall UN HQ, New York City

By Karen Judd Smith

Since 2010 is a critical year in determining which development pathways our world will pursue to achieving the MDGs by 2015, the UN is planning a High-level Plenary Meeting, also referred to as the MDG Summit in September during the General Assembly in New York. The Summit's main focus will be to build on lessons learned during the 10 years since adoption of the Millennium Declaration and accelerating progress towards the MDGs. The Summit will take stock of successes, best practices, lessons learned, obstacles and gaps related to the MDGs and other development goals. Leading to the Summit, the General

Assembly convened these interactive hearings with representatives of NGOs, civil society and the private sector in June. An advance, unedited version of the summary of the hearings is available for download at: <http://www.un.org/ga/president/64/letters/mdgs120710.pdf>. The GA President will issue his official summary of the meeting which will serve as input into the intergovernmental negotiating process for the MDG Summit. Four interactive sessions held discussions on the themes:

- Building a better tomorrow: local actions, national strategies and global structures

**Interactive Hearing, continued on pg. 11**

## Africa Day

May 25, 2010 - Manhattan Center, NYC

"Africa Day" the Annual event of African Union of over 50 African member states to UN, this year celebrating 50 years of Independence of 17 countries. UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon spoke on "Peace and Security in Africa".



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon Speaking



UN Ambassador of Mozambique, Mr. Daniel Antonio and Mrs. Antonio with Ms. Motoko Sugiyama, VP and Director of UN Office, WFPW International

## Forum @ Four

July 21, 2010 - UN Church Center, NYC

By Karen Judd Smith

The Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice gathered diplomats, academics and civil society for the Forum@ Four that encouraged discussion on the current complex interplay of terrorism, politics and inter-religious dialogue as one way to reach for and engage in new levels of collective thinking, dialogue and response.

The Forum@Four is designed by the Alliance's "Working Party on Prevention" headed by WFWPI UN Representative, Ms. Karen Judd Smith, fosters transdisciplinary discussions that target the tough questions of our time. The Chatham House Rules were invoked for this meeting to help discussions be fruitful for the more than forty people in attendance.

Billed as A Book Discussion and Forum, two authors and Mr. Richard Barrett, the UN's Coordinator of the Al-Qaida and Taliban Monitoring Team, (assisting the Security Council's Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, officially known as the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999)) took turns at the microphone and then spearheaded the lively and fascinating discussions.

**Forum @ Four, continued on pg. 10**

# At the UN in Geneva ...

## 14th Session of the Human Rights Council

June 4, 2010 - Palais des Nations, Geneva

By Daniella Brann, Law Student and Intern for WFWPI in Geneva

### The Human Right to Peace A Gender Equality Perspective

The Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace was adopted on October 30, 2006. Based on networking efforts by The Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL), on March 15, 2007, the declaration was presented for the first time to the fourth session of the Human Rights Council (HRC). Since then, expert meetings concerning the human right to peace have been held worldwide with regular participation by WFWPI representatives. During this recent session, legal issues on gender and the peace process were discussed, including women's right to peace during war and non-conflict. A UN resolution for the human right to peace must ensure that gender definitions of peace be clearly defined and written into law. Peace is seen as a right of all people but women's right to peace is different than that of men. After conflict, sexual or domestic violence is often more prevalent. The law in many countries has not established illegality of domestic violence or marital rape. If this is not addressed, peace that encompasses all circumstances cannot be realized.

In Iraq, extrajudicial killing, insurgency and lawlessness have resulted in the disappearance of many Iraqi women. Many women leave their homes to flee violence. Women who before war live prosperously have had to resort to prostitution as a result of the economic devastation caused by conflict. This is further evidence of the need to ensure women are fully protected during and after war. Women are arguably deeply affected by war as mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of soldiers.

Without access to a fundamental human right to peace, there is little or no recourse to the crimes committed against women and the suffering they experience during conflict. A primary prerequisite for recourse is an agreed upon unilateral set of ethics enforced by law. Agreeing to disagree non-violently allows discussion on issues. The process to achieve the universal human right to peace is complex. As long as it is not manifest, we will not be free from violence. For peace to last, legal regimes that adjudicate and hold people accountable must be in place everywhere.



### Visibility of the Human Rights Council Dialogue with the Int'l Media

By Daniella Brann, Law Student and Intern for WFWPI in Geneva

Speakers included the President of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and UN correspondents from the Associated Press, Reuters and Agence-France Presse. Several delegations highlighted the need to improve the HRC's visibility in international media. Coverage of HRC debates is limited despite relevance and potential interest to citizens worldwide. This meeting was the first to facilitate dialogue between diplomats, international media correspondents and civil society. Strong sentiments were expressed that the world should know the daily threat faced by members of the media. Human rights of media members need protection. When media members' rights are protected, they can play a vital role in reporting the Council's achievements and challenges.

Representatives discussed constraints on and challenges to the media. In today's 24-hour news culture there is less time to work on stories. But the media has to keep up with global events to cover all human rights topics. As a result journalists prioritize their stories ruthlessly.

Even though HRC meets throughout the year, results of sessions are heard at year's end. This dilutes interest. More press coverage of

HRC is needed to improve visibility. The HRC does not have representatives everywhere and is internally divided and sometimes mired in ideological and procedural disputes so it is crucial that the Council speaks with one, clear voice.

Since the creation of the Universal Periodic Review in 2006, debates and workings of the Council are more accessible to the

public. However, discussions remain difficult to understand without prior explanation. More background features in the press are needed on the HRC. This would help to raise awareness. Although the work of the HRC is still not entirely visible to the global media or civil society, it is still extremely important that the working relationship between the Council and the media continue to be strengthened through open and frank dialogue held during sessions such as this one. This way, the media will be better able to inform the public of the debates, meetings, efforts and achievements of the HRC as it enforces and protect our human rights.



### \*Resolution on Violence against Women Ensuring Due Diligence in Prevention

By Carolyn Handschin and

Kirsten Williams - Intern WFWPI Geneva

This session, the HRC adopted a resolution: Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: ensuring due diligence in prevention. Building on over a decade of important steps to bring violence against women to the foreground, this resolution urges all states to adopt measures preventing violence against women. It is the first of three HRC resolutions projected over three years. The resolutions are expected to give incentive to the UN, governments and civil society to develop coherent strategies, better understand effectiveness of specific measures, enable corrective action and develop good practice. Two areas for consideration in 2011 and 2112 are protection and remedies.

Key sponsor, Ambassador Markus Grinius of the Mission of Canada, deeply appreciated by the NGO community in Geneva, hosted a series of lunchtime consultations leading up to formal sessions with a few international NGOs, including WFWPI, to assure civil society's voice in the drafting process. Commitment to prevention as a top priority and other concerns raised by NGOs, all reflected prominently in the final document. NGO representatives were very encouraged by inclusion in the drafting process and the developing partnership. Other governments, including Belgium and the USA hosted informal consultations with NGOs during the session.

The resolution addresses prevention from many dimensions, applicable to conflict and peace. It underscores States' duty to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, using all appropriate legal, political, administrative and social means to ensure that acts of violence are considered and treated as illegal. Key elements include raising awareness at all levels, governments providing resources for education and training, full participation of women in developing effective policies and programs to prevent violence against women, dismembering political, legal and cultural structures that promote discrimination and power imbalances, generating will, involving men and boys in changing attitudes and behaviors, improving data collection and analysis and calling all to accountability. It notes that violence negatively impacts progress toward MDGs and other global commitments.

*Governments are called on to provide visible and sustained leadership to identify early warning signs of discrimination and vulnerabilities toward women and girls. They are expected to monitor and evaluate impact of initiatives that prevent violence against women. This includes reforming legislation and creating adequate policies, programmes and services. Critically important, this resolution cites the necessity of working in close partnership with NGOs and civil society to ensure full empowerment and dignity for all members of the human family.*



\*See full resolution at: [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/14/L.9/Rev.1](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/14/L.9/Rev.1)

## At the UN in Vienna ...

### Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration Ceremony

August 9, 2010 - UN HQ Vienna

By Elisabeth Riedl

"Let us realize our dream of a world free of nuclear weapons so that our children and all succeeding generations can live in freedom, security and peace," UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon tells those gathered for a Hiroshima Commemoration ceremony in Japan, August 6, 2010. Mr. Ban, the first UN Secretary-General to take part in the ceremony, was one year old when atomic bombs fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, resulting in the deaths of more than 200,000 people.

The Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration Ceremony, Genbaku No Hi held in Vienna August 9, 2010 commemorated the 65th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by calling for a ban of all nuclear weapons. This ceremony was cosponsored by UN Information Service and Vienna NGO Committee on Peace where WFWPI Representative Dr. Maria Riehl serves on the board.

Maher Nasser, Director UN Information Service (UNIS) Vienna gave encouraging remarks. CTBTO Executive Secretary Mr. Tibor Toth and H.E. Mr. Takeshi Nakane, Ambassador Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN also spoke. A video message from International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano was introduced by IAEA Deputy Director General, Ms. Ana Maria Cetto and Klaus Renoldner, Chairman NGO Committee on Peace. During the commemoration, Yuko Gulda held a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. This memorial was a solemn memorial call for the end to conflicts and weapons of mass destruction. The Peace Bell, presented to the UN in Vienna in 1995 symbolizing the hope of the Japanese people for world peace, was rung and 500 balloons with peace messages drifted away on the sunny afternoon.

Mr. Ban has made nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation a top priority, and put

forward a five-point plan in 2008 including recommendations on increasing security, verification, establishing a legal framework for nuclear disarmament, transparency and conventional weapons. During his talk at the Hiroshima Commemoration in Japan, Mr. Ban said his visit to Nagasaki strengthened his conviction that nuclear weapons must be outlawed. He urged all nations to support his five-point action plan and agree to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention at the earliest possible date. He noted recent progress, including new leadership from the most powerful nations, engagement in the Security Council, and new energy from civil society. There have been some encouraging new commitments made by the world's nuclear powers, he said, including the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) reached by the U.S. and Russia, under which they pledged to cut back stockpiles by a third. It is vital to keep up momentum. Mr. Ban plans to convene a Conference on Disarmament in New York in September, to push for negotiations towards nuclear disarmament. He highlighted the need for disarmament education in schools, including translating testimonies of survivors

**Hiroshima, contd. on pg. 9**

### Insufficient Drug Treatment

53rd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs ~ March 8 - 12, 2010 - UN HQ Vienna

By Elisabeth Riedl

The *World Drug Report 2010*, previewed at the March 8-12 briefing, exposes a lack of drug treatment facilities in the world. The Report states that in 2008, only a fifth of drug addicts worldwide had received treatment, leaving 20 million drug dependent people without treatment. "It is time for universal access to drug treatment," said Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of UN Office on Drugs Crime (UNODC). He called for health to be the center of drug control. "Drug addiction is a treatable health condition, not a life sentence. Drug addicts should be sent to treatment, not to jail. And drug treatment should be part of mainstream healthcare." He also called for greater respect for human rights. "Just because people take drugs, or are behind bars, this doesn't abolish their rights. I appeal

to countries to end this practice where people are executed for drug-related offenses or, worse, are gunned down by extra-judicial hit squads." Mr. Costa highlighted dangers of drug use in the developing world. "Market forces have shaped the asymmetric dimensions of the drug economy; the world's biggest consumers of the poison (the rich countries) have imposed upon the poor (the main locations of supply and trafficking) the greatest damage," said Mr. Costa. "Poor countries are not in a position to absorb the consequences of increased drug use. The developing world faces a looming crisis that would enslave millions to the misery of drug dependence."

The *World Drug Report 2010* discusses the destabilizing influence of drug trafficking on transit countries, in particular, cocaine. Underdevelopment and weak governance

attract crime, while crime deepens instability. Wealth, violence and power of drug trafficking can undermine security, even sovereignty, of states. The threat to security posed by drug trafficking has been on the agenda of the UN Security Council repeatedly in the past year.

While drug-related violence in Mexico receives considerable attention, the Northern Triangle of Central America, consisting of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador is even more badly affected, with higher murder rates than in Mexico. The Report says that Venezuela has emerged as a major departure point for cocaine trafficked to Europe: between 2006 and 2008, over half of all detected maritime shipments of cocaine to Europe came from Venezuela.

**Drugs, contd. on pg. 9**

## At the UN in Beirut ...

### Working as One for Lebanon: UN Coordination Mechanisms

By Monique Fienberg, head of the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator

*"In an ever more independent world, a coherent and strong United Nations is needed to meet an immense set of global challenges and a wide diversity of needs. It should respond to diverse needs of countries and perform as one at the country level, and have the governance, management and funding practices in place to support those efforts."*

The UN Secretary General launched "Delivering as One" pilot initiative in 2007 to respond to challenges of a changing world

and test how the UN family can improve coordination of development assistance. Lebanon is one of the countries with the greatest UN presence per capita - 23 agencies for an estimated population of 4 Million. Since Lebanon's independence, the UN has provided development assistance and cooperation, security support and humanitarian and recovery assistance.

All UN agencies present in Lebanon are members of the UN Country Team (UNCT), which include the following agencies, funds,

programmes and offices: UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR, FAO, ILO, UNESCWA, WHO, UNRWA, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIC, UNESCO, IOM, UNODC, UN-HABITAT, UNV and UNRCO, UNSCOL (Department of Political Affairs), as well as UNIFIL and UNTSO (Department of Peacekeeping Operations), the Bretton Woods Institutes of the World Bank and the IMF. Many non-resident UN agencies (including WFP and OCHA) are also members. The UNCT meets regularly to ensure well coordinated, focused and coherent response to Lebanon's main development challenges. Primary vehicles for

**Lebanon, contd. on pg. 12**

# Activities Around the World in 2010

## Argentina

WFWP Argentina is focusing its activities on education. Education prevents many social problems among young people.

We are a small group of volunteers, that hold monthly meetings on topics related to values and character education. Yearly activities begin in March to commemorate International Women's Day, and conclude with a closing ceremony in November or beginning of December.

Last march we had a slideshow commemorating famous Nobel Peace Women, followed by a slideshow presentation of the biography of WFWP Founder, Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon, by Mrs. Rosetta Conti de Castellón. (Present president of the Argentine WFWP). Awards were presented to Argentine women

who have demonstrated deep sacrifice in their lives and humanitarian work.

Topics of monthly meetings included: Education and Mental Illness (by Professor Liria Guedes), The Role of the Teacher in caring for Child abuse victims (by Professor Tamara Revythis), The Importance of Play in the Prevention of Violence (by Mrs. Ana Maria Aiub and Mrs. Betina Capace, psychotherapists) and the conference, Ethics on Sex and True Love (by Mr. Carlos Varga, president of the Family Federation for World Peace in Argentina). Each meeting included brief presentations on the vision and philosophy of WFWP and concluded with a fundraising bazaar and refreshments following the program. We are planning a celebration of Immigrant Day, and will gather and present cultural aspects from different communities living in Argentina, a Bridge of Peace Ceremony and more.



## Chile

On March 9, 2010 WFWP Chile members visited the Nursing Home Santa Veronica. Leading up to this visit we held a campaign to collect milk and food to prepare a meal of tea or coffee, sandwiches and cake for fifty five grandparents.

In April 2010, WFWP Chile members conducted a campaign to collect clothing, canned goods and medicines to be donated and delivered to a school in the seventh region, a community called Cauquenes, the epicenter of the earthquake zone.

On May 12, 2010 we celebrated Mother's Day. On that occasion we held a tea and gave a present to each mother, as well as greetings and poems recited by some associates. Thirty people participated.

On June 2, 2010, we paid a visit to the Commune of San Antonio, a town badly affected by the Feb. 27, 2010 earthquake. The Mayor had requested help from WFWP. Members collected clothing, medicine, canned goods, and more which was officially delivered at the mayor's office, to the Mayor of the Commune, Mr. Omar Vera. We also toured the district and saw the damage left by the earthquake and Tsunami.

WFWP Chile members also visited a school in a poor town. The school has a total of 87 students, ranging from pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. There are eight teachers for the entire school. WFWP members decided to support this school. We are already collecting school supplies and learning materials to deliver on the next visit scheduled for this September, 2010.



WFWP has about 120 members. By the end of 2010 we would like to increase to 200. Since last fall we have worked to expand our chapters in local cities and towns. This is one of the chapters. Though numbers are small, most are community leaders such as school director and secretary of the education department. All joined WFWP and pledged their support. Dominican Republic now has four chapters in addition to HQ. 6/11/10

WFWP DR celebrates Mothers Day annually. The program combines a short lecture on the ideal family, entertainment, and gifts raffle. This year more than 200 mothers came with their families. Two front rows were filled with VIPs including professors, wives of congressmen, NGO leaders and community leaders. Dr. Margaret Coloniel was MC. She is an Ambassador for Peace and former private college president which presented honorary doctorate to WFWPI founder, Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon.

Our First Lady is emphasizing education projects. One project she is committed to is establishing libraries for young children throughout the nation. Since WFWP DR President, Professor Elida Jimenez is an expert and former director of the national library, she is now the supervisor for this project. The main library has requested WFWP to donate any kind of educational materials and we will continue so. 5/25/10

## Dominican Republic

For over two years WFWP DR members have been collaborating with AELAC (Association of the Educators of Latin America and Caribbean). Most AELAC members are professors at the national university and high school teachers. We have been cooperating in a variety of seminars such as character education, pure love education, AIDS prevention and ideal family. WFWP DR members participated in a seminar held in Cuba. WFWP DR Secretary, Mrs. Yumiko Gomez had sisterhood exchange with President of AELAC Cuba, Dr. Lesbia C. Fabelo (July 7-14, 2010). We donated 200 folders for this seminar. WFWP DR President, Prof. Elida Jimenez presented the folders to Prof. Belgica Ramirez, Int'l President of AELAC, a Dominican citizen.



# South America

## Paraguay

On March 11, 2010, the Women's Federation for World Peace in Paraguay held its 2nd annual "LIVING FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS" awards ceremony at the prestigious Excelsior Hotel in the capital city of Asuncion in commemoration of this year's "International Women's Day."

The program was conducted by Mrs. Pelusa Rubin, a nationally renowned television and radio celebrity. It began with two songs by the famous singer Carlos Baez, installed national president of WFWP, former Minister of Education, Maria Ester Jimenez. Next, there was a short video showing the activities around the world of WFWP Japan chapter. Then the keynote address was given by WFWPI vice president for Latin America, Mrs. Jae Soon Cristina Field.

Awards were then given to 11 outstanding women who exemplify the ideal of Living for the Sake of Others. Each awardee expressed words of gratitude but many tears were shed, not only by them but by the entire audience of more than 400 women and men from Paraguayan society.

Among those honored during the ceremony was Congresswoman Emilia Alfaro Franco, wife of the Vice President of Paraguay. She was recognized for her work with underprivileged youth through her own non-profit foundation "TESAPE'A". In her moving remarks, she said: "Like women everywhere, I can't help but cry when I talk about the social work that we are engaged in. I will continue working for the rights of women, the rights of children, and the rights of the elderly, who are so often forgotten. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Women's Federation for World Peace for this award, and to all of my co-workers who are working day and night to take care of those in need."

The festive event ended with another beautiful musical presentation, followed by refreshments, during which time the guests could share with one another and celebrate the exciting occasion. From beginning to end, the spirit was very high, and everyone could feel the enthusiasm that permeated the room. In addition, the entire event was broadcast on television in the Province of Misiones, and on radio in the Province of Alto Paraguay. The following day, it was reported in La Nacion, one of the leading newspapers in the country.



## Uruguay

### Fund Raising Activities

#### Charity Bazaar -

May 16 & October 10, 2010.

WFWP Uruguay organizes a charity bazaar twice a year, collecting used clothing and selling it at inexpensive prices, to contribute to other social welfare NGOs.



#### Tea Party -

June 15, 2010. WFWP members organize "Tea Parties" to establish a fund. Tickets are sold to WFWP members and others. About 50 people participated. Many organizations supported this charity event. Retired women enjoy these meetings.

### Social Service Activities



May 25: Donation of 5 boxes of used clothes to Public elementary school #117



July 30: Donation of 10 boxes of used clothes to popular education center. September 11: Donation of one box of food and toys to the Prison for Women.



November 11: Donation of a component stereo system to the school for handicapped children in Juaquin Suarez city.

### Educational Activities

#### Lecture & Painting Exhibition -

August 15, 2010. WFWP member, Professor Nilda Alonso exhibited her paintings with her students. Female prison director, Mrs. Margarita Hermida gave a lecture. 60 persons participated.



#### Lecture & Musical Performance -

November 19, 2010. Dr. Angel Grillo, a celebrated scholar in Uruguay, gave a lecture. Singer and WFWP member Noelia Méndez, and her two friends played a musical performance. 60 persons participated.



# The United Nations, Human Rights and Women: Partnership for Empowerment and a Culture of Peace

## 14th WFWPI Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East

May 11 - 13, 2010 - Larnaka, Cyprus

By Carolyn Handschin

Mrs. Elsi Christofias, First Lady of the Republic of Cyprus thanked WFWPI for its dedication to peace in the region, adding that "beyond our political differences, our vision and our daily work is peace". Mrs. Christofias spoke to an audience of experts in political, academic, social, professional and legal fields, representing fourteen countries in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as Asia and Europe.

In a special ceremony on the eve of the event, Ms. Katie Klerides, President of the "Institute for Euro democracie" and daughter of Cyprus' former President, spoke about experiencing the conflict of others. "It helps to put our own conflicts into perspective". Long-time conference chair and first female Minister in Jordan, H.E. In'am Al-Mufti was presented an award for her outstanding contribution to peace in the Middle East. On acceptance of the award, she acknowledged the restraint and wisdom gained over the years while engaging for peace with many partners in the region- seen as critical to peace in the world - that had so touched her personal life as a child growing up in Palestine.

The program intends to strengthen working relationships among leaders present through training and information sharing between UN programmes and those of associations and institutions in the region. All sessions touched on education in human rights, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its monitoring Committee, in particular. Its current President, Mme. Naela Gabr's message was read by Carolyn Handschin, WFWPI Director of the UN Office in Geneva. Mme. Gabr described the importance that CEDAW places on women's participation in the public life of their countries. Conference co-chair, WFWPI Director of Operations, Dr. Zoe Bennet introduced WFWPI President, Dr. Lan Young Moon Park, who spoke on core ethics of service and care, often under-rated actions for peace. She added that only with "consistent conviction, courage, sweat and tears" will these aspirations become a reality. In'am Al-Mufti explained that the peace process encompasses political, personal, and financial elements. She expressed appreciation to the Japanese sponsors and to those heroines who suffer silently and unappreciated who go even a step further to lift up others in unfortunate circumstances.

Session two, **Human Rights, Roadmap to a Culture of Peace** chaired by Ms. Handschin, included a presentation by Ms. Praxoula Andoniadou-Kyriakou, President of United

Democrats Party in Cyprus on the balance of power, changing legal frameworks and equality in education. Dr. Eqbal Al-Othaimeen of Kuwait reported to the group, some of whom had celebrated at last year's conference when news of granting of political rights to Kuwaiti women was announced. She explained that though this was an opening for women's rights in Kuwait, difficulties assuring representation of women's concerns in Parliament remain. Discussions touched on women's power when coordinated, as when Jordan's women parliamentarians removed their hijabs in



council. Yemen's ten women parliamentarians have wielded certain influence since 1990. How can more dialogue between women at the top be facilitated?

Session three, **Making Human Rights Work** was chaired by former Deputy Attorney General of Israel, Dr. Judith Karp. Carolyn Handschin described how to strengthen the UN human rights framework by stimulating greater civic participation through awareness raising and education. Learning to prepare country reports to CEDAW, the Human Rights Council or other agencies is vitally important to development and sustainability. As a former member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Ms. Karp added NGOs have done irreplaceable work during her tenure. Ms. Janelle Caloudis, of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Cyprus, spoke on the developing body of rights of refugees, describing the global refugee situation and specific protection for women that have been put into place. Information sharing and media coverage to illuminate positives are a priority for the agency. Lively discussions on how to change public awareness about rights, change laws, educate children on rights in conflict zones, and development of country reporting by NGOs in Iran, Yemen and Palestine.

Session four, **The Role of Women in History**: Her story was an instructive overview of the often hidden or unrecognized influence of women on history. Underlying themes

were the need to identify and cultivate true leadership qualities that include spirituality and nurturing, and the importance of providing appropriate education for young women leaders. There are women everywhere who are frustrated because they recognize needs of their communities and have capacities to lead, but are prevented from acting.

Session five began with **Human Rights: Women and Work**, moderated by Dr. Hiba Othman, WFWPI UN Representative in Lebanon and Assistant Professor at the American University in Beirut. Ms. Nada El Abdallah, coordinator for the new UN Resident Coordination Office (UNRCO) in Lebanon explained the UN's "Delivering as One" initiative to coordinate work among different agencies within countries, together with government and civil society. Sixteen agencies are coordinating efforts in Lebanon. They are working within a 5 year plan, coordinating workloads at weekly meetings. In Lebanon, a working group on gender issues has formed, given discriminatory legal framework for rights; marriage, divorce, labor, inheritance, etc. and has invited NGO participation. UNIFEL (UN Peacekeeping forces in Lebanon) is working to establish the first gender unit, or "light footprint platform", which if effective will be reproduced throughout Lebanon. Ms. Stella Savides, President of the Women's organization of the United Democrats Party in Cyprus delved deeply into legal and social aspects of reconciling family and work.

**Human Rights in Action**, session six was moderated by Mrs. Khoula Al-Hosni, director of a network of over 900 NGOs in Libya. Dr. Areti Demosthenous, Director of the Institute of Historical Research for Peace introduced her programmes for mutual understanding in human rights between Muslims and Christians in family life. No matter how important human



rights are to the individual, failure to share a common understanding accounts for 85% of failed mixed marriages. She trains counselors to prepare couples to understand each other's cultures, values, rights and obligations before they marry. Ms. Dina Ismail, Press Attaché in the Cabinet of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States in Egypt described her early experiences in foreign cultures and how that influenced her life choices. While visiting Arab countries for her work, (Sudan, Iraq, Tunisia,..) she was struck by

**Middle East Conference, contd. on pg. 12**



# Empowering Women to form Alliances to Create a Culture of Peace

## Fulfilling UN MDG #3: Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

4th Annual European WFPW Conference on the Dignity of Women

May 21-23, 2010 - Dresden, Germany

By *Martina Coombs*

Dr. Elke Preusser-Franke welcomed 100 participants from twenty European countries to the conference with the words, "This is the exact place, where the Peaceful Revolution started in 1989, which led to the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the Reunification of Germany". Martina Coombs, WFPWI VP then introduced the topic of Dignity and Peace Building. Ms. Caecilia van Peski, United Nations Women's Representative on behalf of the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ms. Helma Orosz, Dresden's Mayor represented by Dr. Uta Kruse, greeted the participants. Professor Lan Young Moon Park, WFPW International President welcomed all the ladies and said she felt hope for her own homeland of North Korea, when she witnessed the developments in Dresden, formerly communist East Germany.

In the course of seven sessions, experts on the dignity of women, gender balance, the family, trafficking of persons and the media presented their findings and enlightened the captivated audience.

The Dignity of Women campaign was initiated in Germany in 2002, by Anneliese Weber, Ingrid Lindemann and Christine Sato, in cooperation with Clara Maria Wosmiak.

In 2007 and 2008 conferences on a European level were hosted by WFPW Austria and last year by WFPW France. Ingrid Lindemann, WFPW Germany President, contributed to this topic at a workshop during the 54th CSW at the United Nations, New York in March 2010.

This 4th Annual Conference on the Dignity of Women called for the portrayal of a new image of woman and her qualities in the society, gave impetus to the importance of forming alliances, reconciling, prevention and resolution

### **Hiroshima, contd from pg. 5**

in the world's major languages, as well as teaching that "status and prestige belong not to those who possess nuclear weapons, but to those who reject them." Abolishing nuclear weapons is "more than our common dream; it is common sense policy." "It is a monument to the conviction that we must never allow such devastation to be inflicted on any population, anywhere, ever again," he stressed.

Just prior to Japan's August 6th Commemoration, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke at Waseda University in Tokyo on August 4th. He stressed that Japan has a unique role to play in the area of nuclear disarmament, and called on the nation's young people to lead the way on efforts to rid the world of these deadly weapons. "Become leaders for disarmament. The international community is looking to you for your leadership and for your vision."



of injustice and conflict, and thus building a culture of peace.

Carolyn Handschin, WFPWI UN Deputy Director, concluded the conference by chairing the Appeal session together with Lilly Gundacker. Aiming to fulfill UN Millennium Development Goal Number Three: Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, the conference concluded with the following appeal:

### **Dresden Appeal to Women of the World**

The talents, experience and leadership of women are vital attributes, needed more than ever before, to deal with various and pressing problems in our societies, especially in times of war and natural disasters when women bear additional burdens. This specialized local knowledge provides valuable input to governments and the UN in order to assess the real needs for sustainable development in line with upholding human rights standards.

Solidarity and collaboration may be achieved by bringing together national and international NGOs, civil society organizations and local authorities for the advocacy, capacity building, training and education towards a Culture of Peace.

### **Therefore, we call on women all over the world:**

To engage in ongoing education, learning about their rights, responsibilities and the resources available to them so that they can participate effectively and influence change, making information more accessible to women in less fortunate circumstances.

To seek and take advantage of assistance, expertise and resources provided by the United Nations as well as various other international and national institutions.

### **Drugs, contd from pg. 5**

Mr. Costa called for more development to reduce vulnerability to crime, and increased law enforcement cooperation. "Unless we deal effectively with threats from organized crime, our societies will be held hostage and drug control will be jeopardized, by renewed calls to dump the UN drug conventions that critics say are the cause of crime and instability. This would undo the progress that has been made in drug control over the past decade, and unleash a public health disaster," he warned.

WFPWI is an activemember of the Vienna Committee on Drugs.

(Full content of the World Drug Report 2010 available at: [http://www.unodc.org/documents/frontpage/UNODC\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2010\\_LowRes.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/frontpage/UNODC_Annual_Report_2010_LowRes.pdf))



To take advantage of the very powerful and crucial position held by women as mothers and educators promoting beauty within their families and communities to raise children as peacemakers.

To build effective networks of mutual help and solidarity by establishing and maintaining local and regional steering committees whereby the efforts of women can be recognized, promoted and put to the benefit of their communities, governments and the United Nations.

To encourage women's active participation in decision making processes at all levels and promote a feminine perspective that reinforces their priorities.

To monitor the role of the media in portraying a dignified image of woman.

To assert women's dignity and self esteem as part of a fundamental human rights as women work together to build peaceful families, communities and contribute to a world of peace.

To empower women worldwide, and in particular in Africa, with information and access to education, to put a stop to FGM and other harmful traditional practices.

To contribute, cooperate and work in partnership towards a world of peace.

**"Only as women and men together in equality and partnership can we overcome the difficulties, silence and desperation and secure the understanding, political will, creative thinking and concrete activities which are necessary for global transition from a culture of violence to a Culture of Peace."**



## Migration, contd from pg. 2

impacts of migration include improved quality of life including housing, health, education and increased investments in the country. High social costs are separated families, single or zero-parent homes, lack of parental guidance for youth, dependency and divorce or separation.

Ms. Isabel Pereira, Policy Specialist, Research Team, Human Development Report, United Nations Development Programme stated that 74 million are migrants within their nations. She also noted that not everybody gains when they move to seek a better life. Ms. Haifaa Hassan, an Iraqi refugee living in the U.S. shared her personal experiences as a refugee. War refugees have no chance to prepare. There is often psychological and physical trauma. Refugees live in horrible conditions with no country responsible for their welfare. Iraqi refugees in the U.S. have difficulties adjusting to language, technology and living conditions. After 3 or 4 months, they are left to fend for themselves. In Sweden and France, the government follows up with refugees. Iraqi men refugees in the US have become more abusive toward their women due to cultural insecurities. Ms. Nancy Foner, Professor of Sociology, Hunter College, City University of New York noted improvements in lives of migrant women. Sometimes families work to balance relationships based on changing perspectives resulting from integrating into western cultures. However, conflicts of cultural influence continue in many refugee families.

According to Ms. Jane Stewart, Director, International Labour Organization Office of the United Nations, the ILO is the only UN agency that has a constitutional mandate on migrants. For ILO, the priority in migration is providing decent work. Often, governments lack regulations or political will to improve the dangerous, degrading and demeaning jobs taken by migrants. Political will is vital to uphold human rights of people who migrate around the world.



## End Poverty, contd from pg. 2

lunches, medical units, etc. Breakthroughs never thought possible have been achieved. In 2001, we thought it impossible to treat HIV/AIDS. Four million people are now receiving treatment for AIDS. In 2005, malaria control was thought impossible. A huge coalition of the religious sector, local governments, civil society, NGOs and global funds, have contributed to distribution of pesticides and over 200,000 nets. Tackling world hunger takes a big commitment. Businesses, civil society, and governments all need to work together. So what can we do? Advocate. Fundraise. Help implementation.

**Vidar Ekehaug** UNICEF, Adolescent Development and Participation Unit reminded us that the MDGs are about children, so UNICEF is directly involved. UNICEF is involving youth in work towards the MDGs by training them in health and agriculture. UNICEF focuses on the poorest and most vulnerable with special attention to gender. Unless gender inequality is reduced, we cannot reduce poverty. Zachary Bleicher UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service spoke on preparations for the September UN High Level Plenary Meeting to Review MDGs. He concluded by recognizing the important role civil society plays in fostering change.

## One Future, contd from pg. 2

produced by the UN Environment Programme was shown highlighting the theme of biodiversity.

Ms. Nandhini Krishna, Liaison Officer, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity/ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, spoke on the dangerous ignorance people have about biodiversity. She noted the paramount importance of educating people about sustainable consumption. Seventy percent of the world's poor live in rural areas and depend directly on biodiversity for their daily sustenance and income. She emphasized that awareness and conserving biological resources is the key to adaptation and mitigation. She also stated that biodiversity is closely linked to poverty, climate change, and economic development.

Mr. Mark Moffett, Science Photographer, National Geographic stated that our own life is at stake on the basis of biodiversity. He encouraged the NGO community to change our lifestyles and help protect the environment through participating in training programs.

Mr. Michael Bailey, Producer/ Director, PlanetViews and member of Greenpeace presented an update on his work on the climate summit featuring technologies rallying climate scientists and activists globally. He stressed the urgent issue of protecting endangered species in the ocean and on land and the dire consequences of human beings consuming polluted foods.

Suggestions from the NGO community such as starting with ourselves, cultivating our own spirituality and practicing it in our lifestyles, in our families, encouraging people to be responsible stewards of the earth. Everyone agreed that there is a need for the world to understand how serious the issue is and that over time humanity will eventually pay for the damage it has caused; and yet, if we collectively do our individual responsibilities, we have the power to preserve the environment and co-exist with nature in harmony and in good health.

## Piracy, contd from pg. 2

Surprisingly, piracy is committed by poor young fishermen around 15-18 years old. Unemployed youth are vulnerable to recruitment by large crime organizations and drug gangs' incentives. These young pirates are pawns in sophisticated criminal organizations. They are not after the cargo, but ransom people and vessels. Boat owners push insurance companies to pay the ransom. Solving the long-term problem will involve dismantling criminal gangs, freezing assets and empowering youth through social and economic development. In Kenya, Seychelles and Somalia, UNODC is training police, funding police logistics, IT support and legal resources. Other UN initiatives coordinate efforts between Navies to combat piracy.

**Attorney Jonathan Gutoff**, expert on Piracy and maritime law issues gave a history of piracy, to shed light on potential solutions. Piracy began in the 17th Century. Profits were made by trading stolen cargo and vessels. Britain established localized trials, allowing authorities to exchange freedom for information, which helped end piracy. Fair, stable, regular, legal processes are key. Legal solutions are important but limited without secure, stable governments.

**Anna Bowden**, Research Associate for One Earth Future Foundation (OEF), is lead researcher for a study on the cost of piracy, which is developing viable short term and long term solutions for piracy in Somalia and around the world. Recent piracy has resulted in ninety deaths, 865 hostages taken and over \$400 million dollars paid in ransom. Four hundred attacks have been reported. 53% of piracy attacks occur off the coast of Somalia. Thirty different Naval vessels are facing the piracy situation. International laws could create peaceful solutions. Equipment laws are very effective. Stronger prosecution for piracy would create greater incentives to stop. A global response is necessary.



## Forum @ Four, contd from pg. 2

The two authors were: Charles B. Stormier who edited, *The Fundamentalist Mindset: Psychological Perspectives on Religion, Violence and History* (Oxford University Press, 2010.) and Nancy Hartevelt Kobrin, author of *The Banality of Suicide Terrorism: The Naked Truth about the Psychology of Islamic Suicide Bombing* (Potomac Books, 2010.)

The Forum@Four closed around 5:30 PM with participants grateful for the chance to engage in such discussions and edified by the depth and breadth covered in the short time. We highly recommend the books as a starting point to review the topic at hand. For more information on what the Alliance does, go to: [www.cpcjalliance.org](http://www.cpcjalliance.org)

### **Women's Human Rights, contd from pg. 3**

labor inspections are not conducted in homes and many countries do not require work permits so no government protection exists. Sex trafficking is rampant on the Caribbean and Mexican borders.

**Eleanor Solo**, UN Division for Advancement of Women reminded us of major advances in women's rights, especially in facing violence against women. Before, the UN lacked power to address violence against women, now many UN mechanisms support women.

**Denise Scotto**, UN Rep, International Federation of Women Lawyers, expressed surprise that she receives so few complaints. She explained the process to submit complaints: Write a letter to Geneva. Present facts. Also Write to the UN Division for the Advancement of Women. CSW is another avenue to use.

**Eleanor Blomstrom**, Women's Environment and Development Organization emphasized that gender equality is a prerequisite to sustainable development. Women need partnerships for training and implementation. Engaging more women's groups in policy-making and global level advocacy are needed.

**Recommendations:** Forum Outcome Document should include indigenous women issues related to MDGs, human rights, gender inequality, etc. Indigenous women should have rights to land ownership, culture, and tradition. Recruitment agencies need to be regulated, universal social protection laws, social services. Law enforcement is needed. Education, awareness, government support and implementation are recommended. Universally, if women are engaged and empowered, progress and development will follow.



### **ECOSOC, contd from pg. 3**

The Thematic debate focused on current global and national trends and their impact on gender equality and empowerment of women. A Special Policy Dialogue discussed The role of women in countries in special situations.

High-level policy dialogue: Executive heads of the international financial and trade institutions discussed the state of the world economy and its implications with regard to the UN development agenda.

The 2010 High-Level Segment adopted a Ministerial Declaration at the closing of the conference on Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women, the outcome of these four main events. (Complete text of declaration available at [www.wfpw.org](http://www.wfpw.org))

The HLS' focus on gender equality and empowerment of women was quite remarkable. All sectors discussed and presented on achievement of the MDGs, centering on MDG 3. It was also great preparation for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly which will start with an MDG Summit.

WFPW International submitted a written statement which was documented in six UN official languages and circulated during the session. (Statement posted at <http://documents.un.org> and <http://www.wfpw.org>)



### **Interactive Hearing, contd from pg. 3**

- Equal and inclusive partnerships: Accountability in the fight against poverty
- Sustaining development and withstanding crises
- From voice to policy: 1660 days left.

**Hearings Overview:** Provided by the Non Governmental Liaison Service of the United Nations

On June 14, 2010, the hearings opened at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly. The President of the Assembly's opening statement was followed by a video message from the Secretary-General. Participants emphasized that the MDGs are a useful mobilization tool and a unifying force in development. However, in order to fully realize and sustain human rights of all people, the MDGs must be better rooted in a rights-based approach that emphasizes non-discrimination, participation and accountability mechanisms. Over half the world's population is women; yet realizing gender equality remains one of the most difficult goals almost everywhere. To ensure fulfillment of these rights, accountability must be strengthened and supported by frameworks that reinforce the mutual responsibility of developed and developing countries. Ultimately, through these frameworks, Member States must be accountable to their citizens and support further empowerment of people and communities in their quest for development.

For many speakers, onset of the multiple global food, financial, economic and climate crises reinforced concerns expressed by civil society for many years that the prevailing economic development model of recent decades is unsustainable. Many participants echoed the Secretary-General's call for strengthened national policies to pursue more inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable development paths. This implied greater policy space to mobilize domestic resources and align forward-looking macroeconomic and sectoral policies with development goals – currently often still restricted by inappropriate external policy conditions, trade rules and constraints imposed by international financial markets. This pointed to the need for a major breakthrough at the HLPM on the global partnership for development under Goal 8, and requiring major reforms in international economic and development cooperation.

While non-compliance of developed countries to commitments under Goal 8 was seen as a major obstacle, another was uneven domestic distribution of resources. In recent years, many developing countries experienced high levels of economic growth, but poverty reduction and job creation lagged behind. National ownership implies using existing

policy to make genuine progress and breaking from a culture of dependency.

The Hearings provided an opportunity to hear best practices that could be scaled up and replicated. For example: In 2004, the government of Malawi restored agricultural subsidies to small farmers. Between 2005 and 2007, the country went from a food deficit of 43% to a food surplus of 57% as productivity increased two-fold. The proportion of people living on less than US\$1 a day fell from 52% to 40%. In Brazil, the "Fome Zero" (Zero Hunger) programme, a package of policies including cash transfers, food banks, community kitchens and school meals reached over 44 million Brazilians suffering from hunger, reducing child malnutrition by 73%. In India, the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) provides a legal guarantee of 100 days of employment a year for at least one member of rural households paid at the statutory minimum wage, reaching some 40 million households living below the poverty line.

Participants welcomed the Secretary-General's insistence on a holistic approach. A sectoral approach leads to lack of policy coherence and dysfunctional outcomes, such as young people benefiting from adequate healthcare and education only to face an economic system that lacks productive, decent jobs. Many targets redress the most glaring gender inequalities, with much greater progress on access to education for girls than on reducing maternal mortality. The focus on specific targets should not obscure the fact that overcoming gender inequality is a factor in achieving all MDGs. Also, biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes (under Goal 7) provide key building blocks for poverty reduction under Goal 1: their demise increases vulnerability of the poor and seriously jeopardizes chances of meeting the MDGs.

Calls for more investments to improve progress on the most off-track MDGs and regions need backing by additional resources to avoid cut backs on continued progress on other MDGs (for instance, a choice between access to schools and access to water, between health care and food). A broader holistic approach means fully addressing cross-cutting obstacles that undermine realization of all MDGs – whether in relation to difficulties in mobilizing additional resources, unsustainable and inequitable development paths, or unaccountable governance structures at national and international levels.

WFPWI UN Representatives, Ms. Motoko Sugiyama, Ms. Merly Barlaan and Ms. Karen Judd Smith, participated in the hearings in the General Assembly.



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### 63rd DPI/NGO, contd from pg. 1

Australia, then put an unexpected proposal to the conference. *"The world seems to have a compassion blind spot with regard to the flood situation in Pakistan"* he said. *"For every \$1 that Pakistan spends on public health they spend \$3 on their national debt repayment."* He proposed that a moratorium be placed on Pakistan's debt repayment for the next 2 years while they recover from the natural disaster they are dealing with at present. The proposal received unanimous support; the room erupted into spontaneous applause and a standing ovation.

In the closing ceremony, former Australian Youth Ambassador to the UN, Christopher Varney spoke passionately, reminding us how close we are to 2015. *"We are not here for an end (of the conference) but this is a beginning. We have 5 years before 2015..... From the commencement of this conference 3 days ago, 75,000 children have died a preventable death..... We stand at a crossroads"*. Mr. Jeffery Huffines Chair, NGO/DPI Executive Committee, thanked the Indigenous leaders of Australia for blessing us by reminding us that *"it is on a spiritual foundation that our work, on behalf of suffering humanity, will bear the most enduring fruit"*.

Before closing, Mr. Kiyo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information and Dr. Norton thanked participants and organizers and announced the location for next year's conference. The theme next year will be Sustainable Societies and the conference will be held in Bonn, Germany.

### Lebanon, contd from pg. 5

achieving delivery as one are weekly and ad hoc inter-agency and general coordination meetings for information sharing, joint-programming and complementarity of projects among the UN family, NGOs, decentralized units of line ministries, local authorities, civil society, the private sector and donors.

The main coordination mechanism for inter-agency development activities is based on UNDAF, the UN Development Assistance Framework in Lebanon (2010-2014), a 5 years plan signed by the government of

Lebanon. UNCT members convene to coordinate an approach to five main outcomes: democratic governance and institutional development, human rights, gender, socio-economic development and regional disparities reduction and environmental sustainability. To support implementation of UNDAF, The UNCT established six operational integrated working groups, one for each outcome plus a Monitoring and Evaluation working group. UNDAF Working Groups on Gender and Environment are dedicated to implementation of these UNDAF outcomes. Integrated Working Groups are broader and address other thematic issues as well as UNDAF outputs. This is in line with the UN Secretary General's June 2008 decision requiring UNCTs and Peacekeeping or Political Missions in conflict or post-conflict environments to adopt an integrated strategic approach to their collective work. Lebanon's UNCT is finalizing a Peace and Development Agenda which will be the foundation of an Integrated Strategic Framework to be completed by end of 2010.

The Resident Coordinator (RC), who is Humanitarian Coordinator in time of crisis, develops a coherent frame of reference for cooperation and assistance by the UN system, in close cooperation with Lebanon's government. The RC is supported by the Office of Resident Coordinator (UNRCO), which provides advisory, technical, organizational and management support to the RC and the UNCT. In addition to the Beirut office, UNRCO operates two sub-offices in Tyre and Tripoli, respectively for South and North Lebanon. The North Lebanon sub-office provides coordination support to the Nahr El Bared Crisis response operation where stakeholders participate in early recovery cluster system. Increased presence of UN agencies in the North will be sustained for three years through two joint programs, the Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF) and the MDG-F. The South Lebanon sub-office was established following the 2006 war to coordinate humanitarian and early recovery activities.

### Middle East Conference, contd from pg. 8

the obvious link between peace and women's empowerment, especially locally. Ms. Fahmia Al-fatih of SAVE Yemen, an NGO committed to prevent extremism-based violence, stated that no one is born a terrorist. Governments have anti-terrorism plans, but they usually are not effective because they come too late. Techniques to capture youth for extremism are known. Mothers and family members need to be involved as they have inside knowledge. Men in some Arab countries do not want women active in public life, but their capacity for prevention awareness is unparalleled and needed. *"Women of Arab countries will not be submissive when they recognize the dangers. They can be trained in the notions of human rights and raise their children as peacemakers"*. Ensuing discussions highlighted the reach of these dangers into families. Gradual changes in language, behavior, dress were always noted as youth are extremized. Personal stories were told about family members' recruitment while away at school and incentives used by indoctrinators. Some mothers avoided disaster by intervening (a statistic never reported) and some less fortunate, later received word of death of their child or cousin in a bombing. Fahmia explained the state of shock that descends on affected communities.

Each year a session is dedicated to presentation of reports on projects born at the conference. Ms. Fauziye Tayim Ataya, President of the Palestinian Community in Cyprus reported on the WFWPI program for children in Gaza. It includes cultural exchanges and visits, scholarships for Palestinian girls to the University in North Cyprus, medical and humanitarian shipments for sick and orphaned children and an adoption/sponsorship program.

Growing out of insights and decisions at the conference, The Cyprus Appeal to Women was agreed to by consensus in the closing plenary.

### Upcoming Events

- ❖ Oct. 16 World Food Day
- ❖ Oct. 17 Int'l Day of Eradication of Poverty
- ❖ Oct. 11-14 WFWP 11th Int'l Leaders Workshop in Korea
- ❖ Oct. 24 United Nations Day
- ❖ Nov. 20 Universal Children's Day
- ❖ Nov. 25 Int'l Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- ❖ Dec. 1 World AIDS Day
- ❖ Dec. 10 Human Rights Day
- ❖ Feb. 22- Mar. 4 55th Commission on the Status of Women