



**WOMEN'S FEDERATION
FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL**

NGO in General Consultative Status
with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

OFFICE FOR UN RELATIONS

2023 YEAR-END REPORT



“The world of the future can be a world of reconciliation and peace, but only if it is based on the maternal love and affection of women. This is the true power of womanhood.

The time has come for the power of true womanhood to save the world.”

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Co-founder,
WFWP International

HIGHLIGHTS

- 67th Session Commission on the Status of Women
- Session on Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development
- WFWPI UN Representatives Roundtable Talk
- 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
- SDG Action Weekend
- SDG Summit
- WFWPI Townhall
- UN Dream: The New Agenda for Peace
- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

CSW67 PARALLEL EVENT

Partnership in Equipping Women and Girls with Technological Resilience, Discernment and Protection from Digital Dangers.



On March 9, 2023, WFWPI organized a Parallel Event during the 67th Commission on the Status of Women. The event focused on the theme of "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls." The speakers include: Dr. Karen Smith, Ms. Atefeh Riazi, Mrs. Adriana Gascoigne, and Engr. Christine Rose Bulayo, shared their expertise and insights on various aspects of the topic. Dr. Karen Smith, Founder and CEO, Global Development Enterprise highlighted the importance of developing soft power skills in the face of rapid technological advancements. Ms. Atefeh Riazi, Chief Information Officer of Hearst, Assistant Secretary-General and Chief Information Technology Officer (OICT), United Nations emphasized the need to empower children with the right messages to encourage their participation in the tech industry.

Mrs. Adriana Gascoigne Founder and CEO of Girls In Tech discussed her initiatives to bridge the gender gap in technology and provide educational opportunities for women and girls in STEM. Engr. Christine Rose Bulayo, Regional Secretary General, WFWPI - Asia Pacific 1 explored the integration of permaculture and digital technology for a sustainable and inclusive environment. The event concluded with a roundtable discussion and Q&A session, leaving participants educated, inspired, and equipped to promote resilience, discernment, and empowerment in the digital age for all women and girls.

WFWPI UN ADVOCACY TRAINING



On March 3-5, 2023, WFWPI held an advocacy training on the theme, **“WFWPI empowering women and girls through education and training to lead the way in securing a world of sustainable peace in the age of information technology.”** The training tackled on the role of youth leadership, obstacles faced by young people, and developed skills in public speaking, negotiation, and strategy building to become effective and impactful leaders.

The workshop also involved participation in the Social Forum, where the youth delivered statements and engaged with officials from various organizations. The Social Forum promotes inclusive dialogue and collaboration for positive social change through various channels. Both the workshop and the Social Forum provide platforms for diverse voices to come together and work towards common goals on social, economic, and political issues.

DEBATE DURING THE SESSIONS OF THE EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT



The Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development conducted its seventh session with productive discussions and engagement from Member States, civil society, UN experts, and academics on April 2, 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. The proceedings of the sixth and seventh sessions have significantly contributed to the comprehensive annual report, which was subsequently submitted to the Human Rights Council in September 2023. A delegation from WFWPI comprising of five UN Representatives, namely Dr. Elaine Duval, Christine Rose Bulayo, Rachel Beth Tamayo, Sofia Saborit, and Srruthi Leka Elango, actively participated in a two-day debate held at the United Nations Headquarters. During this discourse, three of them—Sofia Saborit, Srruthi Lekha Elango, and Christine Rose Bulayo—represented the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) by delivering impactful statements. They were joined by WFWPI Director Merly Barlaan, who actively engaged in the debates and also presented statements.



On April 5-6, 2023, the WFWPI hosted a training workshop to prepare its delegation for effective participation and implementation of the UN's mandate on the Right to Development, with Ms. Srruthi Lekha Raaja Elango providing expertise as a consultant on development and human rights. The delegation, led by Ms. Merly Baarlan, represented diverse women and youth from around the world, demonstrating the strength of partnership and cooperation among WFWPI's UN Offices.

WFWPI UN REPRESENTATIVE ROUNDTABLE TALK



UN Representatives Team in New York launched the monthly WFWPI UN Roundtable Talk in May to create a bridge to better understand the UN global agenda and WFPW constituents in the field. It is a platform for education and information dissemination through discussion and debriefing on current UN global issues. Topics discussed were the following: The UN Declaration on the Right to Development, ECOSOC Youth Forum, Integration and Impact of Digital Technology.

These discussions not only facilitated the expansion of our network but also nurtured valuable partnerships with fellow civil society leaders. The collaborative spirit extended to forging alliances with esteemed institutions such as Kean University, as well as engaging with influential state-level decision-makers, including senators and commissioners.

2023 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HLPF)

"Integration and Impact of Digital Technology in developing countries in the context of the Right to Development."



On July 18th, WFWPI hosted a hybrid event at the NYCE Social Hall in New York City. Ms. Merly Baarlaan, Director of WFWPI's Office for UN Relations in New York, opened the event with a Roundtable Discussion on the topic, "Integration and Impact of Digital Technology in developing countries in the context of the Right to Development." The discussion aimed to explore solutions to the challenges faced by developing countries in effectively utilizing digital technology to build sustainable cities and communities, ensuring that digital technology reaches its full potential for the good of humanity while preventing and mitigating all its destructive potentials.

A total of 28 attendees, both in- person and online connected from various non-governmental organizations, actively participated in the side event. The collective engagement generated a palpable sense of unity, commitment, and shared purpose, leaving an enduring and affirmative imprint. The occasion served as a catalyst for community-building, instilling a spirit of collaboration and partnerships that are instrumental to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by the year 2030.

SDG ACTION WEEKEND

During the High Level Week of the General Assembly meetings in New York, 8 representatives from WFWPI participated in the SDG Action Weekend convened by the Secretary General. The Secretary General convened the SDG Action Weekend to maximize the SDG Summit's impact, which generated opportunities for stakeholders, UN entities, and Member States to set out specific commitments and contributions to drive the SDG transformation between now and 2030.



Throughout the week, there were clear calls for the global community to recommit to the Sustainable Development Goals and increase financing to ensure their realization.

The SDG Action weekend provided a platform for collecting feedback from stakeholders especially the civil society and aiming thoughtful discussions, collaborative sessions, and networking with individuals who share a deep commitment to creating a more sustainable and equitable future.

SDG SUMMIT

At the SDG Summit, WFWPI was represented by Merly Barlaan, Director of Office for UN Relations- New York. The event marked a convergence of stakeholders from governments, civil society, and the private sector to address pivotal issues concerning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A central theme was the acknowledgment of progress toward the SDGs, even though it falls short of the necessary pace and scale. Participants highlighted the active engagement of various sectors, recognizing that collective efforts are vital for success. *Youth inclusion and engagement* emerged as another key focus.

Despite notable strides in incorporating youthful perspectives, there is a shared acknowledgment that achieving meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes remains an ongoing endeavor. Secretary-General Gutierrez delivered a keynote address during the SDG Summit's opening, during which world leaders endorsed a political declaration committing to expedite the rescue and acceleration of the SDGs.



WFWPI TOWNHALL MEETING DURING THE SDG SUMMIT

On September 18th WFWPI hosted a townhall information session with the theme of “Understanding the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event featured distinguished speakers, including Mayor Abby Binay of Makati City, Philipeans and Dr. Rior Santos, Regional program Manager of the United Nations Office for Project Services in Micronesia - who provided valuable insights into the significance of the SDGs. WFWPI assumed a leadership role in facilitating this event, in partnership with Dr. Laura Garcia, President of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA). The gathering drew the participation of 50 influential Civil Society Leaders. This collaboration aimed to promote awareness and actualization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mayor Abby Binay and Dr. Laura Garcia received the Global Women Peace Ambassador Award from WFWPI. Dr. Rior Santos and Mr. Fernando Mendez received the Ambassadors for Peace award from Universal Peace of Federation.



UN DREAM: THE NEW AGENDA FOR PEACE



On October 28th, the WFWPI Office for UN Relations-NY observed the United Nations Day with a commemorative event titled "The UN Dream and the New Agenda for Peace" on October 28, 2023, at Kean University in Union, New Jersey. This event was organized in collaboration with Kean University, Always Forward, Universal Peace Federation, and Save ME Movement International, drawing the participation of 60 individuals in person and an additional 15 virtually.

The UN Representatives from WFWPI, along with two interns, successfully initiated meaningful engagements and established partnership networks with various non-governmental stakeholders and civil society members. This productive event has paved the way for forging alliances with institutions like Kean University and other civil society organizations. The event was concluded with a presentation of the “Ambassador for Peace ” awards to Ms. Priscilla Garces, Jonathan Phillips and Anupam Dutta by the Universal Peace Federation.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



On November 27, WFWPI collaborated with the York College Women's Center for Gender Justice, by hosting the "16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls" campaign. The event was organized and hosted by WFWPI UN Representative Dr. Remi Alapo, Professor of Cultural Diversity and Black History, and Ms. Nichole Acevedo, Liaison officer of the York College Women's Center for Gender Justice. This civil society-led campaign run from November 25 which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10, Human Rights Day.

During the event, Merly Barlaan, Director of the WFWPI UN Office in New York, presented the Global Women Peace Ambassador Award to Dr. Berenecea Johnson Eanes, the President of York College (CUNY), recognizing her leadership and contributions in the field of education and women empowerment. The collaboration between WFWPI and York College has been instrumental in enhancing awareness of violence against women through sharing of stories and messages on our social media platform.

ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM



On April 25-27, the 2023 ECOSOC Youth Forum held at the United Nations in New York was convened by the ECOSOC President and co-organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

The forum provided a unique opportunity for youth leaders to engage with various stakeholders, government representatives, youth delegates, policymakers. Actors from civil society and the private sector participated in dynamic discussions, sharing insights, and fostering collaboration. Among the one thousand youth leaders who participated was Ms. Christine Rose Bulayo, the Regional Secretary General of WFWPI in Asia Pacific. Ms. Bulayo also served as one of the Youth Forum volunteer staff.

TOWNHALL MEETING HOSTED BY THE 77TH PRESIDENT OF GA



Merly Barlaan and Christine Rose Bulayo attended the third Town Hall meeting on 27 June 2023 hosted by the 77th President of the General Assembly, H.E Csaba Kőrösi at the Trusteeship Chamber, UN HQ, New York. The Townhall meeting was conducted as part of the ongoing efforts to encourage civil society's participation and valuable contribution to key issues on the agenda of the General Assembly. The meeting was presented as a dialogue with civil society and focused on how the SDG Summit in (September 2023) and the Summit of the Future (September 2024) can contribute to more effective global cooperation in tackling today's challenges as well as new threats in the future. Through open dialogue and shared insights, the meeting was able to enhance understanding and renewed commitment to addressing the current global crisis.

INTERACTIVE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT



On July 21, representatives from NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, civil society, academic institutions, and the private sector participated in the “Interactive multi-stakeholder dialogue on Africa’s development” at the Trusteeship Chamber, UN HQ, New York. The panel discussion was composed of key stakeholders involved in Africa. It was followed immediately by statements from UN Member States and interventions from other relevant stakeholders, including representatives of academia, think tanks, civil society, and youth organizations. Christine Bulayo, Rachel Tamayo, and Srruthi Lekha represented WFWPI in the forum.

The dialogue promoted discussions on sustainable development practices, encouraging the adoption of environmentally friendly policies and technologies that contribute to long-term ecological and economic sustainability. The exchange of ideas during the session contributed to capacity building initiatives, promoting knowledge transfer and skill development in areas critical for Africa’s progress, such as technology, governance, and sustainable resource.

UN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY



On August 11th 2023, WFWPI UN Youth Representatives, Christine Rose Bulayo and Rachel Beth Tamayo attended the UN International Youth Day. This event was hosted by the Permanent Mission of Malta to the UN and the President of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Csaba Kőrösi. According to the Secretary General of the UN H.E Antonio Gutierrez, “This year’s theme reminds us of the importance of ensuring young people gain and apply skills in the burgeoning green economy. “

The day serves as a source of inspiration for young individuals to become leaders and change-makers. It encourages them to take an active role in shaping the future and contributing to sustainable development goals.

GRANT RECIPIENTS: GIVING FOR GOOD PROJECTS



Bangladesh

Interfaith Peace Village located in Gopalganj village managed by WFP Bangladesh and Ms. Tania Islam. Many of the children of this village have stopped going to school due to the pandemic. There are several cases of young girls married off as child brides. The Peace Village project addresses sustainable consumption and production patterns, and providing access to basic education services for child brides, women and children.



Burkina Faso

WFP Burkina Faso carried out its most recent tree planting project in Dapelgo, 35 km outside of Ouagadougou. The projects aimed to empower families and young people focusing on the girl child, environmental awareness. A total of 50 plants were donated to this town; 10 mango plants, 10 banana plants, 10 orange plants, 10 guava plants, and 10 tangerine plants.



Colombia

The project manager, Mrs. Andrea Fayad spearheaded the Regenerative School Projects at The Juan Rozo school in Acacias Meta Colombia. Thirty-five students, 3 teachers and 5 community leaders were trained to manage organic waste both at school and in their homes.



Kenya

The Green Fruity School project spearheaded by the WFWPI Young Global Women Peace Ambassador, Ms. Serah Njuguna. Fifty exotic fruit seedlings were planted to combat floods, droughts, and heat waves caused by climate change.



Mali

WFP Mali carried out its solar panels installation activity at the health center in the village of Kobala Coura. The solar lamps aimed to improve the standard of the health services and provide lighting in the birthing center so women who give birth will no longer have to use torches to go to the toilet.

CAPACITY BUILDING: PEACE LOVING GLOBAL LEADERS

Strengthening Universities and Colleges through Responsive, Engaging and Novel Discourses.



April 27, 2023, The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Commissioner, Dr. Jo Mark M. Libre hosted a capacity building training for Vice-Presidents, Deans and Directors for Student Affairs and student leaders titled, “Peace Loving Global Leaders” with guest trainers namely: Ms. Merly Barrete Barlaan - Director, WFWPI Office for UN Relations - New York and Dr. Robert Kittel - Director of Education, Universal Peace Federation, Asia Pacific. The training was facilitated and held at Bohol Island State University main campus in Tagbilaran City.

The event was attended by representatives from 24 State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) undercharged CJMML with more or less 120 participants. According to Commissioner Libre, “As educators, we play a critical role in shaping the values and behaviors of our students and employees. We need to promote positive role models who embody the values of peace, respect, and tolerance. This can include highlighting the achievements of peaceful leaders, showcasing the positive impact of community service, and recognizing individuals who promote peace in our schools and universities.”

NGO CSW-NEW YORK

Welcoming the New Co-Chairs of NGO-CSW New York



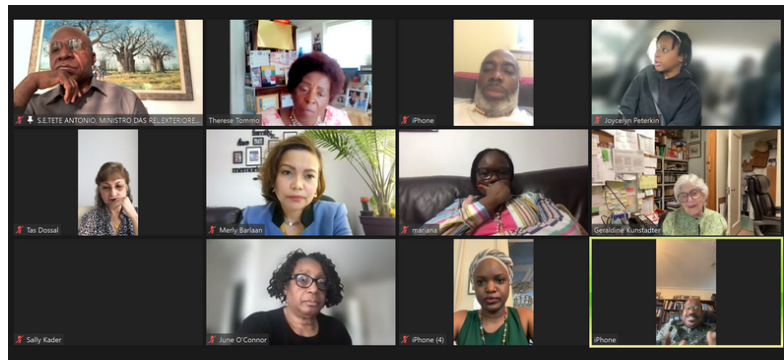
On June 15 2023, the NGO-CSW New York’s held a meeting wrapping up the 2021-2023 Executive Committee’s term, with a farewell speech from the outgoing Chair, Houri Geudelekian and a presentation by the new Co-Chairs: Ms. Ivy Kroik from Soka Gakkai International and Pamela Morgan from Zonta International. WFWPI warmly welcomes the new Co-Chairs of NGO-CSW New York with greater hopes and bring fresh perspectives and greater impact.

CELEBRATION OF CAMEROONS NATIONAL DAY



On May 27, WFWPI joined the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the UN, H.E. Monthe Tommo, and his spouse, Madame Therese Tommo in celebrating the National Day of Cameroon at the Ambassadors' Residence in Westchester County, New York. It was graced by some dignitaries including the Ambassador of the African Union, and distinguished Cameroonian community leaders. It was a beautiful day celebrating freedom, friendship, and the prolific Cameroonian cuisine.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD



On June 17, the United Nations African Mothers Association (UNAMA) led by its president, Madame Therese Tommo Monthe organized an online event to celebrate the Day of African Child (16th June,) on the theme "The Rights of the Child in the Digital Environment. Merly Barlaan, Director of WFWPI's Office for UN Relations in New York delivered a speech and reaffirmed WFP's dedication and commitment to the empowerment and education of African children.

It was a day of honoring commitments and celebrating the children of Africa. Distinguished UN, civil society and business leaders and children participated in the high-level virtual event.

GROUNDWORKS ELIZABETH



November 16: Follow-up to the synergy and inspiration created during the UN Dream event at Kean University, Merly Barlaan, met the Executive Director of Groundworks Elizabeth, Mr. Jonathan Phillips and Engr. Emiljun Rapada, Pastor of the Elizabeth Family Church - at the Groundworks Elizabeth Community Garden site. The parties explored on a partnership proposal for WFWPI to join hands with Groundworks s Elizabeth in 2024 to embark on a climate adaptation and education initiative through the creation of peace parks and community food forest. This partnership project is aimed at promoting peace in the community, healthy lifestyle as well as addressing the existing air and soil pollution in Elizabeth.

PERMACULTURE LITERACY PROGRAM AND TRAINING CENTER



The project is managed by 10K Heroes United in partnership with the Regnesis project, Bohol Philippines. The project aims to address climate change related problems and food and security. Through WFWPI's grant, a Permaculture training center was constructed and has been able to train community leaders and 10 permaculture lecturers as well as climate education and adaptation awareness in the community. The 10k Heroes advancing towards partnership with the goal of supporting the government in making Bohol a regenerative island.

IAFLP North America



Mrs. Alexa Ward and Mrs. Cindy Pfeiffer participated in various high level conferences and events throughout the year to network with First Ladies and global women leaders.

- Jan Received cards of appreciation for 2022 holiday cards sent to presidential families and their staff, including from the Carter, Bush, Kennedy and Roosevelt families or staff.
- Mar. 10 CSW67 event at the UN in NYC hosted by Amb. Verveer, former chief of staff to First Lady Hillary Clinton and current executive director of Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) attended by Alexa Ward.
- Mar. 16 “Women at the Helm: The Unfinished Business of the Northern Ireland’s Good Friday Agreement,” speech by Hillary Clinton at Georgetown University, attended by Cindy Pfeiffer.
- Apr. 13 For the Peace Summit in Korea, the offices of Pres. and First Lady Jimmy Carter, Jean Becker, former chief of staff to GHW Bush, and Dr. Rima Salah, former assistant secretary general, contributed their names to plaques and messages.
- May 4 IAFLP session at Peace Summit in Korea; Cindy Pfeiffer attended and served as rapporteur.
- May 17, 18 First Lady’s Luncheon and open house hosted by the Congressional Club, attended by IAFLP leadership and WFWP contacts.
- May 19 Cindy met with Melanne Verveer at the Cosmos Club, Washington, DC, and shared about the work of IAFLP.
- June 19 Ensuring Women’s Role in Afghanistan’s Future, attended online GIWPS webinar. July 12 International Religious Freedom (IRF) meeting with Sam Brownback, attended online. -- Sept. 18-20 Annual Concordia Summit in NYC, which brings worldwide public and private sectors together to address social and political issues. IAFLP attended and met Cherie Blair, first lady of the UK (1997-2007).
- Sept. 23 GWPN annual event in the Dominican Republic, attended by Cindy Pfeiffer, who gave a presentation on IAFLP’s activities.
- Four Freedom’s Award event and luncheon, FDR Presidential Library and Museum, attended by Alexa Ward.
- Sept. 26 Women’s Connect Celebration in Fargo, ND, where Barbara and Jenna Bush, daughters of Pres. George Bush and First Lady Laura Bush, spoke. Cindy attended and presented them with a gift for their parents (through their assistant).
- Oct. 5 2023 Hillary Rodham Clinton Awards at Georgetown University, attended online by Cindy Pfeiffer.
- Oct. 11 Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, at the Kennedy Center, in Washington, DC, attended by IAFLP and WFWP leaders.
- Oct. 14 Society of Presidential Descendants event in Washington, DC, attended by Alexa Ward.
- Nov. 14 Reception at the diplomatic residence of Therese Tommo, wife of the ambassador from Cameroon to the UN, attended by Alexa Ward.
- Dec. 5 Annual meeting and holiday party at the Congressional Club in Washington, DC, attended by Alexa Ward.
- Dec. 10 Commemoration of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, attended by Alexa Ward.

WFWPI UN Team in New York



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"I will devote the remainder of my life to ending war, immorality, greed and liberating God's heart so that we can build a world overflowing with true peace and love ."

-Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

As we close the year 2023, we extend our utmost gratitude to our beloved co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon for inspiring us and for providing a vision of empowering women through a feminine leadership paradigm using the logic of love, empathy, reconciliation and service. We would like to thank our International President, Mrs. Moriko Hori for her unwavering leadership through these challenging times.

To all our donors especially the **Takenaka family, The Heying family, Ocean Peace, Ocean Providence, the New Yorker Hotel and KODAN**; your generous support enabled us to reach important milestones. We celebrate the successes of this year, keeping in our minds and our history, your indelible contributions to peacebuilding. For your reference we have compiled in the following links the WFWPI UN News which chronicles our programs and advocacy at the UN and around the world.

[Episode 1](#), [Episode 2](#), [Episode 3](#), [Episode 4](#), [Episode 5](#).

This year, our programs and activities were designed to bring the discussion and implementation of the UN global development agenda down to the local stakeholders and communities. We built bridges of cherished connections, forged a partnership path together with other NGOs, the academe, business sector, national and local governments to address food insecurity, conflicts and environmental degradation.

We welcome the new year 2024 with a resolve to increase our efforts; with greater hopes and dreams to usher a sustainable world of peace - together with you.

With Gratitude,
Merly Barlaan and the UN Team