



Women's

Federation for World Peace International

United Nations Office Newsletter

Fall 2007

Strengthening Efforts for the Eradication of Poverty and Hunger through Global Partnerships for Development

ECOSOC High Level Segment and Annual Review Innovation Fair

July 2-5, 2007 - Palais des Nation, UN HQ, Geneva



Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at WFWPI Display



Chief of NGO Section, DESA, Hanifa Mezoui with WFWPI UN Representatives.

By *Motoko Sugiyama*

As follow up to the 2005 World Summit mandate for ECOSOC to convene an annual ministerial-level substantive review (AMR), the General Assembly resolved (resolution 61/16) that the first AMR be held during the 2007 high-level segment of the ECOSOC Substantive Session. The objective of the AMR was to advance and assess progress in the UN development agenda, including the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals). To prepare for the first AMR, a series of meetings were held at global, regional and national levels. The AMR consisted of three main elements. They were: a worldwide review of the UN development agenda, a thematic review (2007 theme was eradication of poverty and hunger through global partnerships for development) and finally, a series of voluntary presentations from nations about their efforts in implementing national development strategies.

An Innovation Fair complemented the AMR and provided the opportunity for NGOs to showcase best practices and lessons learned through projects focused on fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Because of the Millennium Declaration of 2000 and the outcome of the 2005 UN World Summit, a process has been established to identify new and better ways to engage NGOs as active partners in development cooperation. The Innovation Fair was a contribution to this process. In our new global landscape, NGOs have a crucial role as partners in development and as watchdogs that assure UN and country commitments are implemented.

This year marks the halfway point to the target date for fulfillment of the MDGs. Expertise and resources of the NGO community have increased tremendously over the years. It is widely acknowledged that NGOs will be a driving force in furthering the UN's development agenda. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated recently, "The UN can only do its job properly with partners. We will need to forge even closer ties with civil society groups, foundations, academic institutions, the media, labor unions, and the private sector. Each has unique contributions to make." The new mandate given by the General Assembly to ECOSOC reaffirmed the UN aim to strengthen cooperation within the NGO

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community. ECOSOC sought to make the AMR more practical by holding the Innovation Fair as a parallel event during its Annual Ministerial Review. NGOs were active participants. The overall objectives of the AMR Innovation Fair were: to showcase a repertoire of NGO good practices", to unlock the potential of the NGOs fully, to make information on innovative policies and approaches widely available, and to encourage the launch of new partnerships. The AMR Innovation Fair was a milestone in the participation of NGOs at the ECOSOC Annual Substantive Session. We were truly contributing "as ONE" to the achievement of MDGs in the way that Sec. Gen. Ban described "Delivering as ONE" in his report for scaling up the UN's cooperation with NGOs.

WFWPI International was among twenty-seven NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status who were invited to present three success stories each at the Innovation Fair exhibition during the AMR at the Palais des Nation, UNHQ, Geneva. Prior to the fair, NGO reports were posted on the ECOSOC AMR Innovation Fair website. (Success stories from 32 NGOs can be viewed at www.amrif.blogspot.com.) Because of the grassroots nature of WFWPI projects, all of the projects could be considered innovative. However, the

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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

Motoko Sugiyama

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At the UN in New York...

Reports of NGO Briefings

Facing Realities:

Getting Down to Business, the United Nations Global Compact

May 10, 2007 - UN HQ, New York

By Motoko Sugiyama

The Global Compact is the largest voluntary corporate business initiative in the world. It calls on businesses to align their strategies and operations with universal principles in the areas of human rights, labor, the environment and anti-corruption.

This briefing reviewed the current initiatives of the UN Global Compact, including the upcoming Leaders Summit (held in Geneva, July 15-16, 2007).

Moderator Mr. Juan Carlos Brandt, Chief of NGO Section of DPI emphasized that he has been a great fan of the Global Compact since it began in 2000.

Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Office, briefed the group on the status and initiatives of the UN Global Compact. He reported that 4,400 companies in more than 150 countries are members of the Global Compact. The Global Compact board has eleven CEOs among its members.

In addition, there are representatives of labor and civil society. There are 80 local networks around the world, especially in Central and South America, Asia and Europe. There is a Leaders' Summit meeting every three years. Mr. Kell referred to the principles of the UN Global Compact. They are well supported by governments, the UN Global Compact Trust Fund, the General Assembly of the UN and civil society. Mr. Kell stressed that the principals and work of the Global Compact have global reach now.

Ms. Nancy Nielsen, Senior Director, Corporate Responsibility, Pfizer explained that Pfizer is the only pharmaceutical company in the Global Compact network. The company contributes by bringing doctors from developing countries to the laboratory for training. She also stressed that to be successful

Global Compact, continued on pg. 3

Update on the Work of the General Assembly

June 22, 2007 - Conference Room 4, UN HQ, New York

By Merly B. Barlaan

Approximately 400 representatives of civil society and the NGO community attended this briefing by the Office of the President of the General Assembly for the NGO community. The briefing was moderated by Ms. Shamina De Gonzaga, Special Adviser on NGO Relations, Office of the President of the General Assembly. The briefing featured remarks by Permanent Representatives of the United Nations conducting consultations on various tracks of work of the General Assembly. It was divided by topic groups, into three segments. Each segment lasted one hour.

The first segment topics were General Assembly Revitalization, Update on the Mandate Review, and Climate Change. H.E. Mr. Kaire Munionganda Mbuende, Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations delivered an update on the Mandate Review. There are around 9,000 mandates on various responsibilities. Mandates deal with NGOs, drugs, health, children, peace, economic development, and more. The mandate review examines whether mandates are fulfilling their intended purpose.

H.E. Mr. Daniele D. Bodini, Permanent Representative of San Marino to the United Nations, Co-Chair for General Assembly Revitalization discussed the revitalization process. The General Assembly is not working

as envisioned. In fact, the role of the UN is to work like a parliament, but it simply does not work that way. The General Assembly needs to be much more pragmatic and efficient. The issue is how to streamline its many mandates. The role of President of General Assembly is to strengthen the General Assembly consistently. The key to improving efficiency will be improving implementation of General Assembly resolutions. Member states need to be more involved in the election of the Secretary General. An interactive meeting with Secretary General candidates should be organized so member states can get to know the candidates. There tends to be distrust between the member states of the General Assembly and the Secretary General. This is a difficult challenge. The General Assembly should give more leeway and the Secretary General should be more accountable.

H.E. Mr. Hilario Davide, Jr., Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations delivered a statement on the High-Level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace. According to Ambassador Davide, civil society is a crucial stakeholder. His Committee is working on the draft declaration on the rights of Indigenous

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Eradicating Poverty and Hunger - Joining Forces to Make It Happen

Report from Special Informal Event

April 2, 2007 - ECOSOC Chamber, UN HQ, NY

By *Motoko Sugiyama*

In preparation for the first ever Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) scheduled for July 2007, an informal preparatory meeting was held. The meeting was chaired by HE Mr. Dalius Cekuolis, President of ECOSOC and Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN.

To open the meeting, Ambassador Cekuolis explained the process that would begin at this meeting and continue until the ECOSOC Session in July. He informed us that whatever is discussed and recommended at this meeting regarding the UN Development Agenda which reflects the process of the local, national and global levels will be reported in July, at the ECOSOC Substantive Sessions.

H.E. Mrs. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN delivered the opening address. She stated that the Summit in 2005 reaffirmed the UN Global Development Agenda including economic policy, agricultural productivities and truly interactive partnerships between developed countries and developing countries. She emphasized that efforts to create development partnerships should be doubled.

Mr. Wang Zhongyu, President of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions

(AESCSI) gave the keynote address. He stated that AESCSI works very closely with the International Labor Organization (ILO) on poverty reduction programs. AESCSI is cosponsoring the MDG Awards with UN NGO IRENE. The MDG award will be given to NGOs with noteworthy projects addressing the second MDG, Primary Education. China's example in implementing Primary Education for all boys and girls was presented. China is very serious about enrolling all Chinese children in primary education by 2015. Mr. Zhongyu stressed that to succeed in achievement of the MDGs, cooperation and harmony among Universities, Enterprise and NGOs are the key.

After the opening plenary, there were two parallel Roundtable Panels on the themes:

1. Are we making poverty history?
2. How are we doing in the fight against hunger and malnutrition?

Panelists were renowned experts from government, academia, and NGOs. During debate from member states in the Q and A after Roundtable 1, Representatives from developing countries expressed that their countries lack resources. In order to start development, they need resources and investment. Someone mentioned that the most important MDG for developing nations is #8,

Develop a global partnership for development. This needs to be implemented properly at a rapid pace. The NGOs can and should contribute to this agenda by lobbying governments to get involved when and where they are not involved.

Moderators from the Roundtables reported at the second plenary to conclude the meeting. The report from Roundtable #1 emphasized the importance of advancement in recognizing basic human rights for the poorest of the poor. The most successful practice for advancement was microfinance from civil society. Roundtable #2 reported that there is enough food on the earth. However there is an issue of distribution. The problem is that there are people who do not have enough and people who have more than enough.

Three billion people live on less than \$2 a day. That is almost half the population of the world. Each of us has a responsibility as members of the human family to develop partnerships and to eradicate poverty. We must start with whatever we feel confident to do, through involvement in local or international organizations that support this endeavor.



Global Compact, contd from pg. 2

in business is to engage stakeholders from the beginning and to develop and maintain transparency and accountability. She emphasized that unless businesses do this, they are not doing sustainable business.

Ms. Alajobi Makinwa, Civil Society Coordinator for UNGC, Former Executive Director of Amnesty International in South America stated how important it is for civil society to be involved in UNGC. Civil Society will not quit or give up, even if the next move is not clear.

During and after the Question and Answer period:

Mr. Kell commented that GC is all about corporate responsibilities. The Global Compact is not implemented only within an individual organization but it is an idea that brings organizations together. Likewise, Millennium Development Goals will never be achieved by governments alone. We are all partners in the process. That is why we are here. These comments by Mr. Kell summarized the essence of this briefing.



The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact

The Global Compact's ten principles are derived from

- ❖ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- ❖ The International Labor Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
- ❖ The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- ❖ The United Nations Convention Against Corruption

The Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labor standards, the environment and anti-corruption:

Human Rights

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of international human rights within their sphere of influence; and

Principle 2: make sure they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Anti-Corruption

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms including extortion and bribery.

(For further information, please visit: www.unglobalcompact.org)

At the UN in Geneva ...

The Civil Society Development Forum 2007

Sponsored by CONGO - June 28-30, 2007 -UN HQ Geneva

By Yvonne von Stedingk

At the invitation of the Conference of Non Governmental Organizations (CONGO), and in cooperation with the UN Millennium Campaign, representatives of about 300 NGOs and civil society organizations from Africa, Asia and Latin America met in Geneva to debate on the Forum's theme "**A Platform for Development; Countdown to 2015**". This meeting was held at the halfway point to the agreed upon target date for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as adopted by the UN General Assembly in the year 2000. **Lest we forget, the goals to be achieved by 2015 are:**

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Achieve universal primary education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women;
4. Reduce child mortality;
5. Improve maternal health;
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
7. Ensure environmental sustainability;
8. Develop a global partnership for development

However, doubts are being voiced from the United Nations System and members of the international assistance community that, at the current pace, the MDGs will not be reached by 2015. A call by CONGO to join forces has been heard by the worldwide NGO community.

CONGO's partners in organizing the Forum were the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)/NGO Section, the UN Office in Geneva; The UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), the UN Millennium Campaign, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as major NGOs focusing on development and human rights issues.

The Forum was opened by the President of CONGO and the Director of the UN Millennium Campaign, and addressed by the Director-General of the UN Office in Geneva and the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Civil Society led and managed the Forum through plenary sessions, clusters, ten or more workshops, side events and exhibitions. UN officials, government representatives, international experts and numerous representatives from NGOs of the global North and South contributed to a rich and diversified programme and exchange of views.

The outcome of the Forum, as summarized in its Final Statement and the Recommendations and Resolutions, formed part of the interactive discussions among

governments participating in the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC's Substantive Session, which took place immediately after the Forum.

An essential objective of the Forum was to provide a venue for in-depth discussions of the themes of the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC's Substantive Session. These themes were: "Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macro-economic policies" and "Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development".

ECOSOC is the main UN organ to which NGOs actively contribute and cooperate. The NGO relationship with ECOSOC is very special. However, the feeling within the NGO community is that this cooperation needs stronger impetus. Many NGOs are now at the forefront in the fight against poverty and achievement of the MDGs. CONGO and other partners intend to organize NGO forums in connection with ECOSOC High-Level Segments in the future and contribute to the preparatory processes of the Council's activities. This will enhance the input of NGOs to ECOSOC deliberations; with the focus on the two new ECOSOC mechanisms, The Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF).

In summary, the main objectives of the Forum were to:

- Raise the awareness of NGOs, civil society, governments and the media concerning the MDGs and their agreed upon timeframe of 2015;
- Enhance advocacy activities of NGOs by providing an agreed upon input for ECOSOC deliberations and decisions;
- Contribute to the shaping of the modalities and effective functioning of the two new ECOSOC mechanisms AMR and DCF;
- Assist governments in carrying out the AMR and participate in the DCF.

It is not possible here to give full justice to the rich, diverse exchange of views about overcoming poverty among the many concerned participants. The voices of cool economists and other experts mingled with concerned NGOs and grassroots organizations from North and South, expressing their concern, anger and powerlessness often in emotional outbursts. Some comments from the grassroots were: Urging governments and the UN system to end the "democracy deficit" of international organizations. An example given was that the memberships of the governing bodies of the Bretton Woods

institutions and the Security Council do not equitably represent the people of today's world and yet affect the daily lives of billions. Often praiseworthy commitments are made at the global level but actual implementation is sadly missing; e.g. the de facto non-adherence to the principle of allocating 0.7 percent of gross national income for foreign assistance. Others requested that UN reform lead to a new approach by the UN to safeguarding rights of indigenous peoples and adequately addressing their needs in UN programmes. It was urged that the voice of civil society be heard and that civil society organizations be recognized as full partners in the UN reform process. Some of the most essential aspects of UN reform thinking were originally launched by civil society rather than the UN system or governments. Outrage was expressed over the size and growth of military expenditures which among other things minimizes resources available for productive investment in developing countries. It was urged that the right to food be recognized as a universal human right by all UN member states. Others emphasized that actions undertaken in the name of growth should be specifically targeted to benefit the poor; that social policies, especially in the sectors of health and water supply, need to adhere to human rights. Finally, G-8 countries and others were urged to honour past commitments with regard to size, quality and conditionality of aid.

The final statement reminds that the MDGs are minimal goals, an entry point to hold governments of developed and developing countries accountable for the achievements of their economic, social and human development policies. The final statement also calls for "a constructive dialogue that leads to the renewal of previous commitments seeking to revitalize the synergy required at all levels of compliance and implementation of the MDGs".

Civil Society, while stressing its own important role in this entire, ongoing process, pledged to demonstrate even stronger leadership in MDG issues while at the same time deepening its organizations' knowledge base.

We all come from countries with different cultures and different levels of social and economic development. Some of our countries are confronted with internal conflicts or external threats, while others enjoy peace and socio-economic stability. Some of our countries have been classified by the United Nations as 'least developed countries' while others are more economically advanced. Yet despite the

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Women Uniting for Peace: Resolving Conflict and Educating to Live in Peace

11th Annual Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East

May 21 - 24, 2007 - Larnaka, Cyprus

By Carolyn Handschin

The WFWPI 11th Annual Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East, "Women Uniting for Peace: Resolving Conflict and Educating to Live in Peace" built upon the numerous programs, projects and conclusions of the 10 previous conferences. The nearly 70 participants came from 14 Middle Eastern countries and Europe, as well as WFWP Japan. WFWP Japan also provided grants for many of the participants. The diverse expertise and experience of participants who ranged from politicians, ministers, representatives of international organizations, educators, activists, and NGO leaders brought breadth and balance to the discussions.

The Cyprus bicomunal peace and reconciliation programs of the last decade, initiated and driven by women, provided an appropriate model to stimulate and open discussions. Dr. L Y M Park, conference chairwoman and president of WFWPI moved participants in her opening remarks when she pointed out key elements of reconciliation. She spoke of her own personal experience of reconciliation after being forced to flee North Korea in her youth. H.E. In'am Al-Mufti, Jordanian Senator and special advisor over many years to WFWPI Middle Eastern conferences addressed the situation of Israel and Palestine as another case in need of the practice of reconciliation. She stressed the role of education, noting several projects of Jordan's



Closing Session Group Photo

Queen Rania. Mme Keri Klerides, daughter of former Cyprus President and Mme Oya Talat, wife of current Northern Cypriot leader, both friends and colleagues in the bi-communal activities of Cyprus spoke deeply of their vision for a unified Cyprus. Quite coincidentally, both women came to the session bearing painful news about their mothers' very recent serious illnesses, bringing a depth of compassion and empathy that no doubt benefited our deliberations.

Two days of intensive working sessions were spent discussing how women of the region can better unite for peace through aiming at regional "education toward a culture of peace" standards, enhancing the status of women in our societies; and by striving toward eradicating poverty and injustice. The two focal points, "women and conflict resolution" and "educating to live in peace", were found to overlap considerably. It was noted that

women's talent and expertise through life's education and feminine/ maternal role are arguably her best training for successful conflict resolution. Speakers included a founding member of the bi-communal Echo Peace Village, Dr Maria Padjihavlou, Executive Director, American Islamic Congress, Zainab Alsuaj, and former UN Committee on the Rights of the Child member, Judith Karpe from Israel.

A Declaration and Plan of Action was agreed upon by consensus. It summarizes the conference conclusions. An official letter from the Human Rights Council president to participants was entered into the minutes. It has become more and more apparent through 11 years of peace building deliberations and networking that peace is not only *not* attainable without the involvement of women but that in that process, "women have significantly contributed to redefining the concept of peace and how leadership must be exercised in pursuit of that goal".



Working groups with participants from Cyprus and North Cyprus, Kuwait, Bahrain, Algeria, Israel and Turkey



Daughter (center) of former Cyprus President, Keri Klerides; a Medical doctor from Morocco and WFWPI UN representative.

At the UN in Vienna...

NGO Support of UN Drug Prevention Programs

United Nations Forum - March 13, 2007 - International Centre, Vienna

By Lilly Gundacker


WFWPI was in a unique position to be able to contribute to the group who are eager to receive local field reports relating to projects on Drug Prevention from all parts of the world. Dr Maria Riehl, WFWPI UN representative in Vienna introduced a recommendation to the Committee on Narcotic Drugs (CND) based on her years of field work dealing with addicted persons and families of addicts. The proposal urged combining resources and better utilizing international networks so that already existent character education programs could be employed to improve prevention of illicit drug use. Best practice models are currently being sought to present to the committee for evaluation and further recommendation.

The United Nations in Vienna is the Headquarters of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This agency has

a very active policy of partnership with NGOs and has appointed an NGO Liaison Officer to foster and encourage civil society participation in all programs. The UNODC maintains a consistent interaction with its support bodies, the NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs as well as the NGO Committee on Crime Prevention. WFWP has been active in the NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs since the beginning of 2006.

The Drugs Committee recently launched an interactive homepage for internal communication among members worldwide. It is currently seeking organizations of a diverse ideological range to coordinate activities in an institutional capacity for this outreach. They



would then report directly to the Committee on Narcotic Drugs (CND). The Asian Harm Reduction Network has been selected and an NGO representing youth is still being sought. WFWP local chapters are invited to contribute their best practices to this NGO committee through their Vienna representatives. 

General Assembly, cont'd from pg. 2

People. They are conducting consultations on Resolution 61/78. They also conduct cross-regional consultations, listening to other perspectives while keeping an open mind. At the end of the consultations, the Committee makes suggestions and sets timelines for achieving interreligious and intercultural understanding and cooperation. It is important to strike concrete, workable middle ground to address the outstanding concerns of the states.

Mr. Georgios Kostakos, Senior Policy Adviser, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Climate Change Team, New York, stated that in dealing with the issue of climate change, all stakeholders must work together as one. 2007 is a crucial year for climate change. The impact of climate change has already been felt by the most vulnerable. To come up with solutions, we need to both adapt to and mitigate change. Climate change is a global issue. Governments and civil society need to be serious about getting involved. The Secretary General is making this issue a priority. UNEP, UNDP and DESA are collaborating with the SG's office regarding climate change.

Advocates from indigenous groups raised concerns and dissatisfaction over the UN's handling of the issues related to the rights of the indigenous population. There were also questions about the mandate review with regard to NGOs. There are no mandates targeting issues specific to NGOs. However, issues affecting NGOs crosscut through various mandates. The question was raised as to whether revitalization of the General Assembly includes NGOs.

The Second Segment discussed: Environmental Governance, Financing for Development, Special Session on Children, and Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace. H.E. Mr. Claude Heller, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations spoke on Environmental Governance. The governments of Mexico and Switzerland are in charge of consultation on Climate Change. In June 2007 they made a summary analysis on how to improve international environmental governance. This Committee is proposing the creation of an environmental department within the UN.

H.E. Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, spoke on the topic of Financing for Development.

H.E. Mr. Andrei Dapkiunas, Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations reported on the high-level meeting devoted to follow-up on the special session on children. He announced that there will be a Commemorative High-Level Meeting on Children on December 11-12, 2007. It will include involvement from NGOs with ECOSOC status.

Mr. Hiro Sakurai, Former President, Committee of Religious NGOs gave an update on the High-Level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace. He reported that the General Assembly, with the endorsement of Philippines and Pakistan in its resolution 61/221 of 20 December 2006, (OP. 14) decided "to convene in 2007 a high-level dialogue on

interreligious and intercultural cooperation for the promotion of tolerance, understanding and universal respect on matters of freedom of religion or belief and cultural diversity, in coordination with other similar initiatives in this area". In its resolution 61/269 of May 25, 2007, the General Assembly decided that the High-level Dialogue would be held on Thursday and Friday, October 4-5, 2007 at the ministerial or highest possible level, and that it shall consist of three plenary meetings and an informal interactive hearing with representatives of civil society, including representatives of NGOs and the private sector, to be chaired by the President of the General Assembly.

Segment three discussions were on the topics: System-wide Coherence, Security Council Reform, and Capital Master Plan.

H.E. Mr. Christopher Hackett, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations reviewed work on system wide coherence. His Committee is working on a High-Level Panel Report and consultation briefings.

H.E. Mr. Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Heraldo Muñoz, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations spoke on Security Council reform. Ambassador Wenaweser explained that during the Summit of 2005, there was a proposal to enlarge the Security Council. According to Ambassador Muñoz, the membership believes that the Security Council needs to be expanded. There is a demand that

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Activities Around the World in 2007

WFWP Europe

Dignity of Women Campaign

Meeting the Millenium Goal #3: Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

Reported by: WFWP European Board and WFWPI Vice-President Theresia Martina Coombs

WFWP Chapters in Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Spain, Slovakia, Netherlands, Austria and UK have been actively campaigning for the Dignity of Women. This campaign expresses concern for and educates about the continuous degradation of women in many areas: advertisement, pornography, prostitution, FGM, widow burning, honour killing, and rape, particularly as part of war strategy. Prostitution and human trafficking for sexual exploitation constitute violence against women. Therefore, they are absolutely irreconcilable with the dignity and value of the human being, the maintenance of which is guaranteed by the International Human Rights.

Women have very special value, unique abilities and distinct gifts which our society needs. They can realize peace in the world by using their unique gifts to make contributions to the development of society. WFWP EU is committed to ending tolerance for the ways that the dignity of women is being abused and ignored, as well as ending acquiescence to unjust laws, sexist advertising, films, and publications.

Since the summer of 2002, **WFWP Germany** has campaigned against the degradation and violence against women with a position paper and leaflet on the dignity of women, which address the issues of sexist advertising, violence against women and legalization of prostitution. More recently UK, Ireland, Spain and Slovakia have joined the campaign. To assist



Ingrid Lindemann, WFWP Germany, Monika Kunde, founder WFWP Russia and Nina Izaak president of WFWP Russia discussing Dignity campaign.

in the campaign, WFWP Germany members prepared presentations on the topics of "Living Our Dignity", "The Dignity of Women Through the Ages" and "Dignity of Women", a PowerPoint presentation. In February 2007 Ingrid Lindemann of WFWP Germany welcomed Monika Kunde, founding member of WFWP Russia and Nina Izaak, president of WFWP Russia. Ms. Izaak was inspired by our project "Dignity of Women". Russia



July 3rd WFWP Meeting in Salzgitter, Germany

has serious problems with sex trafficking of women. The two women are planning to adapt the campaign to the Russian situation. WFWP Germany will work together with WFWP Russia to conduct the "Dignity of Women" campaign in Russia. The Hanover chapter held a meeting on July 3, 2007 to educate



people about the "Dignity of Women" campaign. A seminar is scheduled for Sept. 15, 2007 in Salzgitter.



WFWP representative Weber and Klein participated with Amnesty International, Terre des femmes, Terres des Hommes, Zonta International and women leaders of the local self-support group for women needing help.

Activities Around the World in 2007

WFWP Europe:

The mayor of Salzgitter recently invited WFWP representatives to be part of a campaign for family and children. Planning meetings are beginning in Sept. 2007.



*Tina Coombs, Ingrid Lindemann, Christine Sato;
European launching of the Dignity Campaign June 2007*

At a meeting in Austria of EU WFWP National Chapters on June 8 to 10, 2007 the nine chapters present voted unanimously to participate actively in the "Dignity of Women" campaign as well.

WFWP Germany gave their presentations on: "**Living our Dignity**", "**The Dignity of Women through the Ages**" and "**Is Peace Possible?**" at the recent EU WFWP meeting. Presentations on the essence of femininity and the role of women in society and their contribution to the Decade of the Culture of Peace, were given. Participants received materials to be used in each of their countries or local groups. The necessity of such a campaign was clearly seen during times of discussion and planning. WFWP representatives to the UN in Geneva, and Vienna are preparing to present this important content to the Human Rights Council. A European conference is planned for summer 2008. It will be organized by WFWP Germany.



WFWP UK: On June 30th 2007 the Bridge of Peace group of Watford, N. London, organized a forum on "the Dignity of Women" at the Multi Cultural Community Centre. This fourth anniversary gathering was dedicated to the commemoration of the abolishment of the slave trade. Since the Bridge of Peace group in Watford was formed, it has opened up from a solely Christian and Muslim group of women to a wider and more diverse group that has especially embraced women from the Afro Caribbean community.

Françoise Murphy, coordinator of the Bridge of Peace, introduced Iris Lusack, a most respected community leader in Watford. Ms. Lusack gave a very uplifting talk on how women



Watford Dignity Conference UK

should walk with pride and hold themselves with the dignity of queens.

Samina Shah, an English teacher at West Herts College, told us that women's attitude and behavior influence men and also affect the state of the family and society today. We should dress modestly, she said, so that men will respect us for our inner qualities and not treat us as sex objects.

Tina Coombs, chairwoman of WFWP Europe, presented the recent launching of the Dignity Campaign in Austria. She suggested forming a committee on the topic, and becoming actively involved in speaking out about situations where women have been demeaned.



Watford Dignity Conference UK

At the group discussions, a Muslim woman, participating for the first time, stood up to report on her table's discussions, and among many other reflections she told everyone that "**Women are the pillar of the family**".

Diana van der Stock spoke about the campaign "The Truth isn't Sexy", which was initiated by a young British woman, Mrs. Aimie Littler. (www.thetruthisntsexy.org) Several ladies decided to follow up on the project. The afternoon concluded with Mrs. Maliha Kabir speaking on the charity, ASHRAM that has projects to support women and children in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

On September 9th the presentation, "Dignity of Women, a Cornerstone for the Culture of Peace" will be given as one of 6 presentations at a WFWP conference during a "Global Peace Festival" in London.

Activities Around the World in 2007

Dignity of Women Campaign

WFWP Ireland held a conference on Pornography and Violence at the Royal Dublin Hotel, D1. IRELAND on March 31, 2007. Guest speakers were Vera Brady, Campaign organizer against lap-dancing clubs; Donald O'Sullivan, Family and Media Association info@fma.ie; Shekh Prof. Shaheed Satardien, Forum for Catholic Islamic Dialogue irishmuslimcouncil@gmail.com and Maria Mac Meanmain, Mother and Child Organization.



Collecting signatures and promoting women friendly shops.

Our protests and media campaign against the psychological preparation of children for future induction and exploitation by the sex industry were conducted through June and July 2007 and continue on Saturdays only, now that our teen helpers are back at school. WFWP Ireland has been protesting outside Debenhams Department Stores and Eason's news shops against their sale of Playboy branded products. As seen



clearly from our protest sign we believe "Playboy products are psychologically preparing children for future induction and exploitation by the sex industry". The Irish branches of Debenhams UK have now ceased to stock Playboy branded products. This has been our greatest success since the closing of Stringfellows UK strip club branch in Ireland. This protest, started July 2007, is ongoing.



WFWP Ireland Placard

Beginning in 2006, **WFWP Austria**, UN representative Elisabeth Riedl, networked with the German women's association and worked on gathering signatures against proposed prostitution cubicles at the International Football Match.

Throughout Europe, as in other parts of the world, the media, advertisement and fashion industry misuse the beauty of woman, undermining and injuring the dignity of women, harming the wholesomeness of the female gender and indeed the family, a significant building block of a stable and peaceful society.

WFWP members and friends, networking with other organizations, will continue to raise awareness, highlight and strengthen the dignity of women, and reinstitute the respect and esteem due to women, thus contributing to the fulfillment of Millennium Development Goal #3: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.



60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

September 5-7, 2007 - UN HQ, NY

By Merly Barlaan

The 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, “**Climate Change, How it Impacts us All**” aimed to inspire participants to action to mitigate and reverse the effects of this environmental crisis. More than 2,000 NGO representatives from over 80 countries attended roundtables, panels and workshops during the 3-day event.

Speakers at the opening session in the General Assembly Hall were **Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information moderator, Ms. Marjorie Tiven, NY City Commission for the UN, H.E. Ms. **Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa**, President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly, Mr. **Achim Steiner**, Executive Director, UN Environment Programme and Ms. **Asha-Rose Migiro**, UN Deputy Secretary General. “The United Nations relies on the civil society community on virtually everything it does. Partnership is critical,” stressed Ms. Migiro. “The effects of climate change are now visible: water supplies are at risk, rising sea level, food insecurity and so on...How we manage the threat poses a great challenge. To address these threats we need a truly global effort.”



WFWPI Delegation

The Roundtables

There were seven multi-stakeholder roundtables. Representatives from the UN, governments, civil society and the private sector were included as speakers. The roundtables addressed the themes: *Climate Change: The Scientific Evidence, Indigenous Peoples, Culture and Traditional Knowledge, Water Security and Climate Change, Streamlining the System, Sustainable Development, Accountability and Ethical Standards.*

Climate Change: The Scientific Evidence

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports project a future world of extreme temperatures, intensified storms and unusual weather patterns affecting all life on our planet. Global

warming over the coming decades could have serious implications for our economies, water supplies, agriculture, biological diversity, and geo-politics.

The panel of distinguished scientists presented the most recent evidence of climate change; current impacts and expected consequences in coming years. They stressed that climate change will not have a uniform effect on the environment. Effects include sea level rises of 5 to 60 meters, due to glacial melting, and increases in strength and frequency of hurricanes. Developing countries are in regions that will be most impacted by climate change. Since many cities are in coastal areas, mass flooding of urban areas may occur. A loss in population of species (eg. polar bears) and even whole ecosystems (eg. coral reefs) is possible. They emphasized that greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced and the effects of climate warming can be mediated. Governments must focus on two crucial tasks: 1) Prepare people for effects of global warming, and 2) Limit production of greenhouse gasses. These are urgent tasks. In preparing people for global warming, the scientists emphasized that developed countries must assist less developed countries to mitigate and manage the effects of climate change.

Indigenous Peoples, Culture and Traditional Knowledge

For Indigenous Peoples, global climate change is a reality that already threatens their diverse cultures and ways of life. The Indigenous are among the first victims of these changes. This panel provided examples of local initiatives by the Indigenous that demonstrate their commitment to defending their cultures by concerted efforts to reduce causes of climate change. Speakers depicted how climate change impacts their people’s way of life. The greatest challenge for the Indigenous Peoples was reported to be no recognition or use of Indigenous Peoples’ traditional knowledge. The Indigenous Peoples reported climate change even before the scientific world reached consensus about it. They want to be included in climate change debate since they possess valuable knowledge on the issue.

The Indigenous Peoples are dependent on their environment. Environmental



Opening Session of 60th DPI/NGO Conference

deterioration poses a direct threat to their lives from the Arctic regions to the Pacific islands. The overall conclusion of the roundtable session was that we possess all the necessary information to combat climate change. Time for talk is over. It is now time for action!

Water Security and Climate Change

Throughout history, the need for clean, potable water has posed one of the greatest challenges to humanity. Water is essential for life and is therefore, a potential source of conflict. Climate change will exacerbate the existing tensions between impoverished peoples and their access to water. This roundtable discussed how the international community can address changing flows of trans-boundary waters, irrigation and hydrological interdependence. They discussed the types of water management strategies necessary to meet the needs of the poor, while setting water use levels within the limits of ecological sustainability.

According to the panelists, the issue of water is a crisis of the poor, particularly in the Sub-Saharan Africa: “the poorer you are, the more you pay for clean water.” Climate change intensifies the issue: retreating glacier as a source of water, production, and irrigation for many people; the water reservoir capacity is in short supply. It is also a problem for both developing and developed countries, as the management of this cross-border resource involves technological capacity and investment. The conventional policy of sustainable development is not enough for humanity to mitigate water shortage. A holistic integrated approach is needed.

Four fundamental actions are suggested for water security:

- 1) Prevent water contamination,
- 2) conserve and recycle water to maximize benefit,
- 3) manage the flow of surface water runoff and stabilize soils, and
- 4) establish decentralized supplies and portable water reserves. Engagement of

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Innovation Fair in Geneva, contd from pg. 1

three stories presented at the Innovation Fair are good examples of what WFWP has been accomplishing. In its presentation, WFWP International summarized all service projects that target MDG #1 for poverty eradication. WFWP Kenya described a grassroots project to prevent FGM (feminine genital mutilation). WFWP UK described its school for orphans in India. Twelve delegates from WFWP



Innovation Fair Displays

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local communities is the key to the sustainable management of water. All efforts toward water management are pointless without reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Coping With Climate Change: Best Land Use Practices

This discussion focused on innovative ways to minimize and cope with the negative impacts of climate change, primarily as they present in erratic weather patterns. These events aggravate famine and mass migrations in areas already burdened, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions.

The panel discussed effective local initiatives for combating desertification, planning and zoning techniques, which can stem rapid loss of agricultural lands to urbanization. The panelists also considered the vital role that preservation of biodiversity and reforestation policies can play in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The importance of adopting strategies that will protect land and forest erosion and still provide healthy livelihood opportunities for those that depend on the land was stressed. Proper education on sustainable land use practices and use of modern equipment for farmers, especially those on the peripheries of poverty is needed. The panelists pressed for collaborative efforts from civil society to encourage local governments to adopt policies that will preserve and protect farmland and forests for future generations.

The Economics and Politics of Energy and Climate Change

The production and consumption of energy resources, including oil, coal, gas, nuclear power, solar, wind, water, geothermal and



Deputy Chief of NGO Section, DESA, Michele Fedoroff with WFWP UN Representatives.

attended the AMR and the Innovation Fair at the High Level Segment. For further information on the High Level Segment, go to www.un.org/coordination/ecosoc/.

(Please find full text of the three WFWP success stories, WFWP feedback and Summary Report on the Innovation Fair as well as the WFWP application for the upcoming MDG Awards at www.wfwp.org/archive)



biomass, have a profound impact upon the economic and political development of nations and their relationships to each other.

This roundtable addressed the inter-relationship between economies, energy policies and climate change and its impact upon economic growth, trade and technological development. Panelists explored partnerships that have been or can be formed between the UN, Member States, business and civil society to address the science and implications of climate change as it relates to energy needs, consumption and equity issues. There is unprecedented global awareness that



something needs to be done quickly. This urgency is not apparent in the intra-governmental negotiations and this reticence is driven by fear. Industrialized countries fear losing economic advantage, while developing countries fear that climate-orientated solutions will impact economic development. Economic growth and climate protection must not be regarded as mutually exclusive entities. Mitigation costs are 1-2 % of global GDP and will require a considerable shift in energy and land use practices. Industrialized nations must lead the way, meeting upfront costs and providing compensation to developing

General Assembly, contd from pg. 6

Security Council should be more representative and democratic. Their Committee is in the process of drafting the report for the deadline of June 30th. He concluded that solid political resolve is required in order to reform the Security Council.

Ms. Vivian Van de Perre, Chief of Administration and Communication, Office of the Capital Master Plan gave a report on the Capital Master Plan. The United Nations building is undergoing a major renovation. Its purpose is to improve safety and energy efficiency. Also, the UN buildings need to be brought up to current city building codes. Three new conference rooms will be created as a part of renovations. For more details on UN Renovation, please refer to www.un.org/cmp.



countries. We face hard negotiations where the NGO community and civil society can play a fundamental role in driving social change. It is our responsibility to collaborate in turning compelling global concerns into effective political action.

Streamlining the System

This roundtable discussed likely effectiveness of enforcement measures being developed under the Kyoto Protocol.

This panel mainly discussed the many failures to comply with treaties, agreements and conventions related to climate change. Some are a result of a lack of communication between various bodies, even within the UN system. Panelists agreed on the necessity of individual actions as well as a larger systematic approach. The UN, NGOs and civil society must confront, re-engage, monitor and collaborate with each other to implement their vision.

Sustainable Development, Accountability and Ethical Standards

The international community recognizes that climate change represents a threat to human survival. Experts illustrate that desertification accelerated by climate change; imprudent uses of natural resources, and environmental warfare have created scarcities that increase potential for armed conflicts, crime and mass migration.

The importance of promoting development in relation to climate change was a key issue addressed during this discussion. Climate change tipping points including the melting of the Greenland ice sheets would result in a change in ocean currents, and the probable drying up of the Himalayan glaciers, which presently support approximately 1.2 billion

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Donate To Eradicate Poverty!

Since 1994 WFWP has dispatched volunteers worldwide, to implement development assistance projects based on local needs.

Send your tax deductible donations to:

**Women's Federation for World Peace
International
4 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036, USA
(Make checks payable to WFWP International)**

Dedicate your donation to a specific project by noting on memo line:

- Schools
- Scholarships
- Nutrition
- Sanitation
- AIDS Prevention
- Medical Aid
- Vocational Training
- Micro Credit



WFWPI is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization

Support the efforts of WFWP volunteers worldwide to:

- ❖ give underprivileged children a chance to study
- ❖ provide women with skills to work, start a business, care for their families
- ❖ provide educational assistance
- ❖ build schools
- ❖ provide nutrition classes and sanitation
- ❖ give medical aid
- ❖ education to prevent AIDS
- ❖ provide vocational training & microcredit

For more information about projects, see Biennial Reports at www.wfwp.org

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people. If we continue "business as usual," we will be emitting three times more carbon than today, by 2100. Therefore, what is needed is a 95% reduction of emissions. Proposed plans to reach this goal include limiting population growth, stopping our addiction to economic growth, and shifting to renewable energy as well as carbon capture and storage. Sustainable development plans, including green taxes, large scale public works, and technology transfers must be implemented. The issue of accountability is vital in the fight against impacts of climate change. For example, 75% of all energy is consumed in urban areas. Energy consumption of cities is driving the need for sustainable development. The necessity for uniform carbon emission quantification is clear. However, the power of local governments to implement necessary regulations is disproportionately low. There is a need for transparency in how carbon levels are counted and monitored.

The Midday Workshops:


The Midday Workshops are an integral part of the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference. The workshops enhanced the roundtable topics, raised supplementary issues, shared solutions and best practices, and fostered partnerships across all sectors of civil society.

The topics covered in the Midday Workshops included scientific evidence, cultural and traditional knowledge, water security and climate change, best land use practices, economics and policies of energy and climate change, streamlining the system, sustainable development and the responsibility to protect, and health and education.

Conference Highlight

For the first time in 60 years the conference participants produced a Conference outcome document that makes recommendations for individual action as well as a collaborative work to combat climate change. This "Final Declaration" was agreed upon by delegates on Friday, 7 September 2007, during the Closing Session. (See www.wfwp.org for full text of the 60th DPI/NGO outcome document.) 

Civil Society, contd from pg. 4

manifold differences between us, the Forum provided us with the opportunity to discuss our common concerns and aspirations, to forge partnerships and build solidarity across regions and continents, and to promote the goals of peace, human rights, justice, and equitable and sustainable development. 

Upcoming Events

- Oct 16 World Food Day
- Oct 17 International Day of Eradication of Poverty
- Oct 24 United Nations Day
- Oct. 28 - Nov. 2 WFWP 8th International Leaders' Workshop and Convention
- Nov 20 Universal Children's Day
- Nov 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Dec 1 World AIDS Day
- Dec 10 Human Rights Day
- Feb 25 - Mar 7, 2008 52nd Commission on the Status of Women