



Women's Federation for World Peace International

Federation for World Peace International

United Nations Office Newsletter

Fall 2009

Contribution of the Family to Peacebuilding and Human Rights Commemorating the International Day of Families

May 15, 2009 - United Nations HQ Geneva, Switzerland



By Carolyn Handschin

In the 6th event in an ongoing peace building and human rights conference series, Women's Federation for World Peace, Int'l (WFWPI), partnered with the Geneva Interfaith Intercultural Alliance (GIIA) and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), convening two sessions to mark the International Day of Families. Reinforcing the United Nation's declared theme for 2009, "Mothers and Families: Challenges in a Changing World", the pivotal role of the mother in the family, and the family in the community, took the stage in both sessions.

Chair, Dr. Alpha Ayande, Director of Synergy and Development, introduced the theme of family in its current social context. Afton Beutler, chair of the CONGO Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) Working Group on Health and Human Rights provided participants with examples of the primordial role that women have played in development issues. She noted some of the gaps that governments could help to fill in the areas of coordination and training.

Sonia Billard-Fattah, Coordinator for women's issues and online education at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), covered the very practical

aspects of mothers as peacebuilders in their roles as caregivers, educators and models in their communities. She cited several best practices in the capacity that women can have to extend their "maternal embrace" beyond their own children to harness the strengths of community initiatives. She spoke of the very constructive power of intergenerational harmony and specifically about how her own father's interfaith lifestyle influenced her choices.

Michel Reymond, UPF Geneva Director, presented a more theoretical perspective concerning the roles of parents and family members in learning to live in peace, citing requirements for each developmental stage. Responding to the rather positive views presented, Dr. Christiane Agboton Johnson, Deputy Director of UNIDIR, reminded the participants of the other side, the destructive role that the family can hold in cases of some human rights violations like FGM or honor crimes. This sobering challenge underscored a common thread of the previous speakers' statements: prioritizing access to education including values based education. It was noted that celebration of this day each year is meant to be a time to create greater awareness about the current situation that families face, and

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how the UN, governments and civil society organizations can contribute to ameliorating the situation.

In the second session, four of twelve delegates of the GIIA's Youth Interfaith Council prepared statements on the family. Dorcas Pimizi (Christian), Marwa Mahmoud (Moslem), Jasdeep Singh (Sikh) and Nina Habermacher (Baha'i) were introduced by youth coordinator and WFWPI, Deputy Director of the UN Office, Carolyn Handschin, When each of the representatives spoke, they showed striking similarities in their analysis of the role of the family in today's society as a much needed stabilizing, strengthening and educative force. "As all major religions recognize", one delegate read, "when there is no distinction between our physical family and the neighborhood family around us, we will already be living in a culture of peace". She reminded us that religions teach those tools.

The commemoration concluded with a Youth Interfaith Council Resolution on the Family that highlighted the common contribution that religion can make to the family and that families can make toward the healing of our communities. It began, "As the Youth Interfaith Council, we feel as one

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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

Towards the End of the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries

April 23, 2009 - UN HQ, New York

By *Motoko Sugiyama*

The speakers for the briefing were Ms. Joyee Kafanabo, Minister Plenipotentiary at the UN Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania, Ms. Sansance Sahussarungsi, Minister Counselor at UN Mission of Thailand, Dr. Allen Court, Special Advisor to the Secretary General and Special Envoy for Malaria, DR. Melanie Renshaw, Senior Malaria Advisor at UNICEF and Ms. Tara Gutkowski, Senior Manager, Community Relation of the National Basketball Association (NBA).

Ms. Kafanabo stated that Africans continue to be highly affected by malaria. There are 16 to 18 million cases each year, resulting in over 100,000 deaths. She outlined her country's method of facing malaria, which causes 37% of deaths in children under age five in Tanzania. The government set the goal to eradicate malaria by 2025 and dedicates 3.5% of the country's GDP to the effort. Tanzania is the first country to lift all taxes and duties on insecticide treated bed nets, making bed nets cheaper and

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For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!

Preparing for Mexico: New Perspective on Human Development and Disarmament
June 4, 2009 - Conference Room 2, UN HQ, New York



By *Keifuku Sugiyama,*
WFWPI Intern, Senior
Stony Brook University, NY

The 62nd annual DPI/NGO conference will be in Mexico City, September 9-11, 2009. The theme is "For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!" About 26,000 nuclear weapons still exist today despite efforts for disarmament. Small arms trade is also a serious threat. This briefing prepared for the conference, and informed

NGOs about the present arms situation worldwide. Ms. Maria-Luisa Chavez, Chief of NGO Relations, DPI was moderator.

Ambassador Heller of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN expressed a warm welcome for the DPI/NGO conference attendees to Mexico City. He stressed the importance of disarmament and supports bilateral talks toward disarmament. He has high hopes for U.S. President Obama to facilitate worldwide nuclear disarmament and non-

Disarm Now, contd. on pg. 5

Integrating the Disabled Community into the MDGs

June 11, 2009 - ECOSOC Chamber, UN HQ, New York

By *Keifuku Sugiyama*

This briefing introduced the importance of including persons with disabilities into the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs set by the United Nations (UN) in 2000 aim to halve extreme poverty, halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, provide universal primary education among other goals. However, persons with disability are not explicitly included in the MDGs. Ms. Gail Bindley-Taylor Sainte, Information Officer of the NGO Section of DPI opened the panel and served as moderator.

Ms. Maria Martinho from the UN Statistical Division/DESA, MDG Indicators explained the data collection process for the MDGs. Under the eight main MDGs, smaller targets define each goal. Much data is collected by each country to show progress toward the smaller targets, and sent to the UN Statistical Division for analysis, then to the General Assembly and the Secretary General for review.

The deadline for the MDGs is 2015. An

MDGs & Disability, continued on pg. 6

The Ozone Layer and Climate Change

June 18, 2009 - Conference Room 4, UN HQ, New York

By *Keifuku Sugiyama*

Since establishment of the Montreal Protocol in 1987 on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, many efforts to minimize production of ozone depleting chemicals have occurred. When the ozone layer in the stratosphere deteriorates, the amount of Ultra Violet light exposure on earth increases and damages life on earth. Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) are man-made chemicals that deplete the ozone.

The Montreal Protocol effectively mitigated climate change by regulating these substances. This briefing illustrated achievements of the Montreal Protocol and options for future action.

Mr. Paul Newman, Program Coordinator of NASA explained achievements. Production of CFC has almost been eliminated. Production of HCFC is now regulated and will decline rapidly. The amount of ozone-depleting substances, chlorine

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“Voices of Experience”

Panel Event: UN and Nuclear Disarmament | May 7, 2009 - UNHQ, New York

By Cynthia Shibuya

Panel Chairperson Jonathan Granoff, President of the Global Security Institute (GSI) opened the session. He stressed that we had opportunity several times after the Cold War to achieve success with Nuclear Disarmament but we lacked boldness at those times. “The time is now to be bold,” he concluded.

Actor and UN Messenger of Peace, Michael Douglas gave opening remarks. Facing Mr. Dhanapala he said, “I cannot believe it’s been eleven years since the day you took me to Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s office to begin

as a Messenger of Peace. Now we have this moment of historical expectation and we’ve reached a moment of opportunity where the world’s most eminent elders and world leaders are coming out with a virtual cascade of voices, calling for an end to the unacceptable risk. It is not a problem of lack of policy options but a problem of lack of political will. Now is that moment where we can feel the rush of that political will beginning to grow. I hope many of you felt a thrill when the President of the United States and the President of Russia

Voices, continued on pg. 7

Sustainable Urbanization in the Information Age

Role of Infrastructure in Metropolitan Development | May 13, 2009 - UN HQ, New York

By Merly Barrete-Barlaan

The conference addressed global challenges posed by rapid urbanization and the impact of global warming on man-made and natural environments by calling for better planning of sustainable urban growth. The conference was jointly sponsored by the UN-HABITAT, Division for Public Administration and Development Management, the Global Alliance for ICT and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA-GAID), the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter, the Regional Plan Association, United Cities and

Local Governments(UCLG) and Forum For Urban Design. Partners include the Federation of United Nations Associations(WFUNA,) International Tunneling Association(ITA), and NJIT School of Architecture.

The conference gathered international and local stakeholders responsible for policy making, city planners in metropolitan areas, representatives of Member States, developers, architects, engineers, designers, members of civil society, media, ICT experts, and the private sector. The conference examined approaches to fostering sustainable development in urban

Urbanization, continued on pg. 7

World Financial & Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development

June 24-26, 2009 - UN HQ, New York

By Karen Judd Smith

Participants discussed reform and the need to strengthen the international financial and economic system and architecture. Emergency and long-term responses were identified that could mitigate the impact of such events on vulnerable populations and prevent the scope of this type of crisis in the future.

This conference was mandated at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, held in December 2008 in Doha, Qatar. In preparation for the conference,

the President of the General Assembly formed a Commission of Experts on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System to create a set of recommendations for presentation to the highest levels of world leadership.

Alongside high level meetings and opportunities for Member States to add their voices and perspectives to the conversation, there were side events to broaden understanding of the impact of the financial crisis. Proceedings

Economic Crisis, continued on pg. 6

Int’l Organizations and Religions in Countering Terrorism

July 22, 2009 - UN Church Center, New York

By Karen Judd Smith

The Forum@Four held its first session on the prevention of terrorism. It is a project of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, a CONGO committee. Interest and engagement in the forum was heightened in part because the Forum took up the rather delicate topic of religion’s role in preventing terrorism. The engagement was energetic and fruitful. The room did not empty quickly even after the formal end.

Dr. Afaf Mahfouz, long time President of CONGO, NGO activist and co-organizer had

invited Ahmed Seif El Dawla, a judge on leave from his native Egyptian responsibilities and Chief of Section in the Secretariat’s Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) participated in his personal capacity as the anchor speaker. After opening remarks from the Forum@Four’s moderator Ms. Karen Judd Smith, El Dawla reviewed how international organizations and the UN’s Security Council are dealing with this complex issue. He teased out for those in attendance,

Countering Terrorism, continued on pg. 7

NGO Committee on the Status of Women (CSW)

Luncheon - May 20, 2009 - NY

By Cynthia Shibuya

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women honored H.E. Ambassador Olivier Belle, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations.

The Luncheon opened with welcoming remarks by Vivian Pender, Chair, NGO CSW, New York, and the introduction of the Keynote Speaker and Guest of Honor, H.E. Olivier Belle. H. E. Belle was appointed to serve as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations in August of 2006. He was also the Chairperson of the Bureau for the 52nd and 53rd Sessions of the United National Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

H. E. Belle gave a brief but warm talk regarding his term in New York. He especially

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CEDAW Luncheon -

July 20, 2009 - Office of Baha’i Int’l, NY

By Merly Barrete-Barlaan

The Luncheon celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The event was graced by the presence of Ms. Naéla Gabr, Chairperson of CEDAW and the keynote speaker.

According to Ms. Gabr, over the past thirty years, the Committee has many achievements with the invaluable support of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations and women’s associations. She stressed that the efforts of the Committee have increased the visibility of the Convention and its Optional Protocol and have proven successful as universal ratification of the Convention approaches, with 186 States parties and 97 States parties to the Optional Protocol. She also added that the Committee continues to work in close cooperation with NGOs, national human rights institutions, as well as UN entities and specialized agencies. This type of cooperation has greatly contributed to the quality of the Committee’s recommendations to States parties, which have now become more precise, concrete and country specific. However, despite positive indicators, she acknowledged that there are still many challenges. Many women around the world are still experiencing serious violations of their basic human rights. Gabr concluded her speech by expressing her hopes that this anniversary will be one of

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At the UN in Geneva ...

Annual Session of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

July 6-9, 2009 - UN HQ, Geneva

By Carolyn Handschin

The high-level segment of the annual session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) opened on July 6 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva with addresses by Sylvie Lucas, President of the Economic and Social Council; Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations and Hans-Rudolf Merz, President of Switzerland. Referring to the timely theme, "Implementing the internationally agreed upon goals and commitments in regard to global public health" the Secretary General called for increased cooperation and renewed commitment from world leaders. Ambassador Lucas reminded participants of the unique opportunity that exists within ECOSOC in "promoting collaborative action on the global health agenda", but was quick to add that although progress has been made in promoting a "whole of government" approach, she also noted that "firm resolve and leadership are needed to keep the momentum".

Since its establishment at the World Summit in 2005, the annual ministerial-level substantive review (AMR) segment has been charged with reviewing and aiding implementation of the shared commitments of member nations. The 2009 Review included thematic discussions, speeches, reports from regional preparatory meetings, ministerial roundtable breakfasts, high level policy dialogues, national voluntary presentations (NVP) and a Special Event on Africa and the least developed countries (LDC). The Innovation Fair, ongoing throughout the week, provided UN agencies, governments and civil society the opportunity to display innovative programs and best practices in support of the sessions' objectives.

World Health Organization's Director General, Margaret Chan, encapsulated several essential and often repeated concerns in her address as Lead Speaker. She said that while greed and flawed policies have fueled our

financial crises and have put us in a "mess", our interdependence demands tackling solutions together and provides opportunities to build a new, more ethical global framework. Success of development goals like the MDG's rests on the "moral commitment to put the welfare of humanity at the heart".

Regional reports of preparatory meetings provided depth to sub-themes such as preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases, promoting health literacy or e-health, the use of information and communication technologies for health. The honesty of the reports in identifying both failed and successful approaches at the national and regional levels gave valuable insight toward global policy adjustments. Voiced here and throughout the week, were several glaring gaps in implementation. One gap, which was later taken up in a joint NGO statement in the general segment was the unacceptable increase in maternal mortality rates in developing countries. (see www.wfp.org for full statement)

The seven nations who took the floor for the NVP session were Bolivia, China, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Japan, Mali, Sri Lanka and Sudan. Most spoke candidly about their national success stories and strained efforts to fulfill the health-related MDG's. The understanding, acclaim and constructive encouragement rendered to the presenters by other members led to the decision to more than double the presentations from 7 to 15 for the NVP in the 2010 AMR.

The AMR adjourned with eight resolutions and two decisions adopted on topics including African countries emerging from conflict; implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for 2001-2010; a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out follow up on financing for development; the role of ECOSOC in integrated and coordinated

implementation of and follow-up to outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits.

The Ministerial Declaration that was adopted on July 9 after extended discussions reaffirmed commitments to health-related development goals and emphasized that more aid needs to be targeted to the health sector. It was noted that where investment in health coupled with multi-sectoral partnerships has been made, like the fights against malaria, tuberculosis or HIV/AIDS, there have been tremendous gains. The Ministers expressed concern at the lack of progress in improving global health, as well as the glaring and persistent inequities in health systems among and within countries. In particular, "we are deeply concerned that maternal health remains one of the largest health inequities in the world and by the slow progress in achieving MDGs 4 and 5 on improving child and maternal health."

Ministers called for action to promote gender equality and empowerment of women, equal access of women and girls to education, basic services including primary healthcare, economic opportunities and decision making at all levels, as called for in the Beijing Platform for Action. Overall global improvement in health care and reversing downward trends depends on active participation of women. The ministers emphasized the importance of eliminating all harmful practices and violence against women and girls, because of the severe threat to physical and mental health of women that these practices create. States were asked to renew their commitment to prevent and eliminate child and maternal mortality and morbidity, which is occurring globally at an unacceptably high rate.

As such, the Ministerial Declaration, adopted by consensus, serves as a benchmark for assessing progress and strengthening accountability of national and international leaders and stand as a focal point for partnership with NGO's and civil society institutions.



UN Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD) Holds Public Symposium

May 18-19, 2009 - UN HQ, Geneva

By Yvonne von Stedingk

UNCTAD held its first Public Symposium in cooperation with the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Services (NGLS) and other partner organizations. The theme was The Global Economic Crisis and Development – the Way Forward and provided a platform to people and organizations who had not been heard from enough on causes and effects of the current global financial turmoil. This forum enabled the people to voice their concerns and help find policy changes to avoid such crises in the future.

The symposium was organized in plenary sessions and smaller break-up sessions centered around the following key topics: The Global

Economic Crisis – its causes and multiple impacts; with discussions focusing on the effect on developing countries in the areas of trade, investment, food security and jobs; Assessing existing responses to the crisis at the international, regional and national levels; and Proposals for the way forward including the obstacles and opportunities.

Among the issues debated were the effects of the crisis on human rights, the potential social unrest in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and inequalities of wealth in the world. The disproportionate impact of the global turmoil on women, job losses that resulted and the potential for renewed food crises were

all discussed. The urgent and strong need for reform in many areas was also emphasized as well as the very real concern for the developing world, which is facing a series of difficulties such as falling prices for basic agricultural goods and industrial raw materials, declining remittances for citizens working overseas and much more.

The creation of a global jobs pact was advocated by ILO/DG representative, Juan Somavia. He stated that, "unemployment worldwide grew by 14 million in 2008 and at this point has probably grown by 50 million". Mr. A.B. Johnson, SG/Interparliamentary Union emphasized, "We must reinforce the

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Malaria, contd from pg. 2

more accessible. Through partnerships like the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Initiative, Tanzania has made progress toward meeting 2010 goals. She emphasized prevention and effective treatment infrastructure for early diagnosis and treatment of malaria. Ms. Kafanabo concluded by stressing united, committed leadership to win the battle against this curable and preventable disease.

Ms. Sahussarungsi mentioned Thailand was a cosponsor of the UN GA Resolution to RBM in Developing Countries from 2001-2010. Malaria had affected the Thai community gravely, but in the past fifty years, a drastic reduction in deaths from 268 per 1,000 cases in 1947 to 1.9 per 1,000 cases in 1994 was achieved. Thailand's malaria control program adopted the global strategy of the World Health Organization (WHO) for malaria. To reach Thailand's goal of reducing cases by 50% by 2011, with morbidity under 0.5 per 1,000 people and mortality at 0.2 % per 100,000 people, the government used several strategies. Thailand participated in a program with Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia organizing village health workshops to educate villagers, particularly in shared border areas, cooperated with ASEAN to ensure mobile populations in the region received information on malaria. She concluded by stressing the major challenge is the multi drug resistant strain of malaria and the impact of climate change on advancing communicable diseases like malaria. She emphasized that capacity building within the health service sector is necessary.

Dr. Court explained the two types of malaria; falciparum malaria which is more prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa, and is more deadly; and the more common version, vivax malaria, which is rarely fatal but is much more difficult to treat. He explained the direct relationship between meeting the RBM goals and the MDGs. MDGs 4 and 5 involve decreasing child mortality and maternal mortality. Achievements toward the goals are well below the global average in Sub-Saharan Africa. He linked malaria and cognitive deficits, confirmed in a recent study in the medical journal "The Lancet" that says 50% of cognitive deficit in children is due to either a deficit of iron or iodine. Anemia is a major complication of malaria that leads to 25% of cognitive deficits in children in areas where malaria is rampant. Court predicted that among children who suffer cognitive deficits in these areas, only 1 in 5 will attain the academic standards of their unaffected peers. His focus is advocacy and education which has resulted in a commitment of \$ 3.2 billion from the World Bank and other partners to eradicate malaria. This includes the purchase of some 350 million bed nets. 140 million bed nets have already been delivered, another 240 million are financed of the 280 million total needed. He appealed for the end to the senseless deaths from

malaria and issued a call for joint concerted global effort to "go on to the victory."

Dr. Renshaw informed that UNICEF is the world's biggest distributor of mosquito bed nets, and provides support for malaria case management in homes and delivery of malaria interventions, integrated with maternal and child health services. The RBM partnership secured \$3.5 billion from the Global Fund. The funding led to rapid drug policy change by governments around the world to Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT) on an unprecedented scale. She affirmed that the RBM partnership was closing the resource gap and meeting the 2010 target of attaining universal coverage. Dr. Renshaw explained that the method to achieve this goal is well understood; wide scale implementation of mosquito nets and effective malaria treatment will reduce malaria mortality and help achieve MDGs 4 and 5 in Africa, with additional resources and the continued commitment of the global community.

Ms Gutkowski explained the National Basketball Association (NBA)-Care partnership operating through twenty community partnerships. One is the malaria advocacy group, Malaria No More. Through this partnership, the NBA held awareness raising events about malaria, an American Idol event and was a partner in "Nothing but Nets". The NBA raised \$426 million for the cause and delivered 2.5 million bed nets to communities in Africa. A simple message, "Send a net, save a life" and a transparent donation and delivery process made this effort successful. More than 60,000 donations supported this initiative. The NBA's success stemmed from providing a brand and its star power to raise the level of public awareness. The NBA will continue to support global efforts to eradicate malaria and partner in campaigns aimed at this goal.

During the Question and Answer Session, it was confirmed again that malaria can be controlled. Most important, prevention efforts are essential to eradicating malaria. The scientific world is closer than ever to having a vaccine against malaria.



Disarm Now, contd from pg. 2

proliferation. Ambassador Heller expressed concern for the grave issue of North Korea's pursuit of nuclear arms.

Mr. Daniel Prins, Chief of Conventional Arms Branch, UN Office of Disarmament Affairs described the current status of international small arms trade. Small arms, such as hand guns are easy to hide, easy to operate, cheap, and often owned by civilians. Most conflicts such as terrorist and pirate attacks use small arms rather than huge military weapons. Small arms crimes often merge with other problems like drug trafficking and regional conflicts. The UN has agreements on small arms, but more action is needed to truly

solve the problem. Arms trade treaties are not enough. We need to disarm combatants. Mr. Prins urged civil society to communicate and pressure governments into nuclear and small arms disarmament.

Ms. Frida Berrigan, Senior Program Associate of the Arms and Security Initiative, New America Foundation reminded that money spent by nations on arms supply, is not available to invest in human security. The yearly military budget of the world today is about \$1.339 trillion. Half of that is spent by the United States alone. While state leaders say that they need national security, a state cannot be secure while its own people are starving, illiterate, unemployed and living in dangerous conditions. Leaders need to prioritize human development and human security. The UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are achievable if nations reallocate military spending to MDG-related projects. The total cost to achieve the MDGs within next ten years is equal to the annual military budget worldwide.

Ms. Rhianna Tyson, Senior Officer of the Global Security Institute talked about nuclear disarmament in today's world. She talked about the need for a sustainable, just world. While the Cold War had two super powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, today's world involves multiple actors influencing the world. Some say there is a status quo among countries with nuclear weapons, but it is not true. Possibilities for global nuclear warfare exist as long as nuclear weapons exist. Ms. Tyson emphasized the need for global cooperation on disarmament and the need for international financial institutions to aid the cause.

Mr. Ray Acheson, Project Director of Reaching Critical Will, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, UN Office explained that disarmament and human development are mutually connected matters. When governments have high military expenditures, it upsets social welfare and economic stability. Nuclear weapons harm the environment by destroying lands and resources. He stated that social spending is more beneficial to states than military spending.


The panelists concluded by emphasizing that effective NGOs can be influential in work with their governments toward disarmament.



MDGs & Disability, contd from pg. 2

event is scheduled for 2010 to discuss current achievements toward the MDGs and the future of the MDGs. Ms. Martinho explained the important role NGOs play in creating public awareness of the disabled community and the importance of including disabled people in reform of the MDGs. Debates are ongoing on the future of MDGs after 2015, whether the UN will continue to advocate for the current goals or if they will be replaced with new goals. Civil society has the power to drive their governments to address public needs, such as rights for people with disabilities. Under the larger goals, the disabled community can be included among the smaller targets. Some challenges to setting goals for people with disabilities among the MDGs are: lack of quality data; no comparable data between different countries because each country uses different methods to gather data; some countries have more data on persons with disability, and some don't collect data; countries do not define persons with disabilities consistently. Ms. Martinho said the UN Statistical Division is working on these challenges.

Dr. Diana Indjov, Chair of National Council for the Integration of People with Disabilities explained (via video) the work of her institution. To reduce poverty, persons with disabilities need real inclusion in society. Poverty and disability often go hand in hand. Women with disabilities are most discriminated against. Children with disability need access to education absent of discrimination. People with disabilities need equality, integration, vocational training, and life-long educational opportunity. Accessibility and equal rights can be improved. People within the disabled community need representation regarding decisionmaking on policies that affect them.

Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief of the Secretariat on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and UN Focal Point on Disability, DESA explained programs at the UN that serve persons with disabilities. The poorest 20% of people in the world are those who are disabled. NGOs can pursue dialogue with the UN, strategize toward capacity building, promote awareness, accessibility, and representation of persons with disability at MDG conferences. The UN, NGOs and civil society must engage organizations among the community of people with disabilities and their advocates, so that dialogue can occur on how the needs and realities of people with disabilities can be included in the MDGs. 

Ozone Layer, contd from pg. 2

and bromine in the stratosphere peaked in 1996 and are now declining. Because of the Protocol, it is predicted that the ozone level will return to 1980 levels by 2050. Other research predicts that the Antarctic ozone hole will recover by 2065. If the Protocol did not exist, projections are that two-thirds of the ozone layer would


have been destroyed by 2065. The international scientific community made significant strides when it linked CFC, ozone depletion, and climate change. Newman assured that evidence shows the ozone layer recovering.

Mr. Jose Pons Pons, managing director of the Spray Quimica Urbana Industrial Socco signified the importance of the Montreal Protocol via video. When the issue of ozone depletion was debated in 1978, no means of controlling CFC emission existed. It was in wide usage in refrigeration and foams. When evidence arose from Antarctica that ozone depletion was serious, the international community took action to control CFC. The Montreal Protocol warned world leaders of pending global disaster and set a model for international cooperation to face the problem. The Protocol succeeded because it allowed for communities, scientists, industry experts and governments to work together to solve the problem.

Ms. Lisa Manley, Director of Sustainability Communications for The Coca-Cola Company explained how one of the largest global beverage companies minimizes its environmental footprint. Coca-Cola's refrigeration equipment has the most impact on climate change of all its enterprise activities. They changed to CFC-free refrigerant gas, hydrofluorocarbon (HFC). After they found HFC is a powerful greenhouse gas, they are changing to CO2. They are using all HFC-free insulation, eliminating 75% of the company's greenhouse gas emissions. Coke developed new technologies for energy efficiency, such as increasing refrigeration temperature during low use. The company shares its energy management technology with other companies and collaborates with a coalition of companies in the use of natural refrigerants. The company signed the 2007 UN Global Compact's Caring for Climate Leadership Platform and the Bali Communiqué.

Professor Durwood Zaelke, president of the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, also praised the Montreal Protocol for its success. He emphasized the significance of global warming and the critical problem that many ice blocks including the Arctic summer sea ice are melting. Reducing CO2 alone is not sufficient to solve global warming. HFC needs to be regulated more. The advantage of the Montreal Protocol is that all the countries in the world are fulfilling their mandatory obligations. The Montreal Protocol also has frequent assessments, funding, and adjustment processes.


Mr. Rajendra M. Shende, head of Ozone Action Branch, Div. of Technology, Industry and Economics, UN Environment Program explained that the phase out of HCFC is greatly benefitting the climate. At the climate change conference in Copenhagen, a meaningful deal is needed that would call for new fuel to replace HFC. By 2010, CFC and Halon that deplete the ozone layer will no longer be produced.

Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka, the Under-Secretary General of Communications and Public Information joined the briefing with a special announcement. He introduced the campaign named "Seal the Deal", which calls for new environmental regulation by the Kyoto Protocol's deadline year, 2012. A conference in Copenhagen of heads of state will discuss global climate change. Mr. Akasaka emphasized we need to act now to get the newly reformed treaty into action by 2013. He stressed the importance of NGOs giving voice to public needs and initiating momentum. 

CSW Luncheon-May, contd from pg. 3

stressed the importance of strong family values and his history of support of those NGO's involved with supporting families. He stressed, "Strong community involvement brings development". Further we cannot talk about women's health without involving men and boys. Men are part of the issue and response. This viewpoint was warmly received by the audience. H. E. Belle concluded by saying that being progressive now assures the future.

Ms. Aminata Toure, Chief of the Gender, Human Rights and Culture Branch of the United Nations Fund for Population gave a passionate speech about her work in Africa. She is from Senegal. In 1992, Ms. Toure became the Programs Director of the Senegalese Branch of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. She also worked as Chief Technical Adviser for UNFPA in the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs in Burkina Faso and in Cote d'Ivoire and Regional Adviser for the UNFPA Regional Training Program on Behavior Change Communication-BCC and Advocacy. She has also held positions at UNIFEM in Dakar on Gender and HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Toure is a strong advocate for family planning and reported that last year more than half a million women died of pregnancy-related issues. HIV/AIDS is up 60% in Africa. There has been very little improvement lowering the infant mortality rates and preventing violence against women. "Violence against women has tremendous impact on family and health issues and needs more attention from Member States, NGO's," Ms. Toure stressed. She feels the African governments have been "gender-blind" and is calling for more funds for education in family planning. The audience was greatly moved by her energy and commitment to the welfare of the suffering families in Africa. 

Economic Crisis, contd from pg. 3

included dialogue between Civil Society and the Commission of Experts; high-level discussions on migration and the economic crisis; gender assessment of the economic stimulus packages in Asia-Pacific, discussion of urban ecology and land tenure; the role of the United Nations in the strengthening of global economic governance; consideration of "people's rights not corporate profits;" regional impacts,

Economic Crisis, continued on pg. 7

Voices, contd from pg. 2

met and made a joint commitment to achieve a nuclear-free world. Also S.G. Ban set forth his agenda for the Security Council and the General Assembly to convene summits to address nuclear disarmament and other action steps.” Douglas concluded quoting President Obama, “Since the U.S. is the only country that has used nuclear weapons, we have the moral responsibility to act” [toward achievement of nuclear disarmament].

Sergio Duarte, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs encouraged all to feel hope for the realization of a nuclear weapon-free world. He reviewed the history of the United Nations efforts for nuclear disarmament and informed us that the goal of nuclear

disarmament is in the UN charter. Mr. Duarte explained Secretary General Ban Ki Moon’s 5-point proposal for nuclear disarmament, which places emphasis on strengthening the international rule of law on disarmament and requiring binding commitments backed by the force of law. He called for nuclear weapon states and the UN Security Council to enter into negotiations and for increased research and development for verification. He also called for nuclear-free zones and urged nuclear weapon states to provide additional details about their nuclear arsenals and the steps they are taking to eliminate them.

Jayantha Dhanapala, former Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, President of Pugwash Conferences on Science

and World Affairs pointed out ‘Voices of Experience’ is a daunting title. Experience can lead to cynicism because in the past breakthroughs have fallen through. We must combine experience with hope and idealism. We must not forget the fall of the Berlin wall, Apartheid, Perestroika, etc., all achieved through relentless efforts. We must never be daunted by impossible goals. We must continue to work for the goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons. President Obama’s meeting with the President of Russia on April 5 in Prague represented a major breakthrough in nuclear weapon policy.

Mr Dhanatha listed several failings of the Nuclear Ban Treaty (NBT). Unless there is a

Voices, continued on pg. 12

Urbanization, contd from pg. 3

areas and the role of infrastructure and ICTs in achieving the goals of smart growth. Global warming and climate change pose serious threats to all nations in the 21st Century. Rapid urban population growth is particularly affecting developing countries.

The Plenary Session featured keynote speaker Ms. Anna K. Tibaijuka, Director-General, UN Habitat. She explained her view of infrastructure in the context of urbanization. She stressed that our future depends on how we design and plan infrastructure and determines the immediate impact of our daily lives and the long term environmental impacts. Ms. Tibaijuka discussed managing cities by integrating economic and environmental factors and human expansion. She identified innovative approaches like using information technology in support of sustainable urbanization.

Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developing Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States discussed the alarming speed of urban population. Without the right infrastructure, developing countries face serious development challenges. The risk of increased poverty and health issues are exceptionally high in these areas. He concluded that well-managed urbanization can present benefits and economic opportunities.

Mr. Robert Yaro of the America 2050 Regional Plan Association stated that the planet will be okay but civilization is at risk. He thinks the US exhausted the urban system set up for the 20th century so will have to plan for a new urban system fit for the 21st century.

Presentations from six metropolitan areas, New York (North Megaregional Initiative, East Corridor Developments, Jakarta, Melbourne, Cape Town, Curitiba (Brazil), Tuebingen (Germany) were given. The presenters discussed policy; shared knowledge about bridging the digital divide in the area of sustainable urban design; and presented innovative ICT models for sustainable urban planning that are based on the establishment of a sustainable environment worldwide by 2030.



Economic Crisis, contd from pg. 6

responses and solutions; policy responses to the jobs crisis; towards an action plan for Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs); and more.

Throughout formal and informal discussions, statements and dialogues, the complexity of the issue and the scope of its impact hit home again and again, leaving many of us very aware that in the end, many of the solutions will not come from the top. What is needed is a reinvigorated look at what we can do where we are. This point was first made during the opening remarks of H.E. Miguel d’Escoto Brockton, President of the 63rd Session of the General Assembly, when he noted, “We have used financial capital, a limited resource. But now we need to look at using spiritual capital.” He was calling upon the people of the world to look to different resources than the ones that had brought us all to this place of crisis.

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon noted that this is the worst financial crisis since the formation of the UN. For many countries, there are no green shoots of hope. “Already a billion go to sleep hungry. We need solidarity. We need a United Nations.” He remarked that the G20 package to IMF, World Bank and other multi lateral agencies was only a beginning. “We need clear priorities and to commit resources,” he continued, reminding those gathered that the General Assembly represents all humanity. “Here we must galvanize action to mobilize full strength to real-time data for impact on the poorest; to move people from vulnerability to opportunity; and to create institutions for the 21st century.” - The outcome of the conference can be found in Resolution A/RES/63/303.

Women’s Federation representatives participated in various sessions, observing, engaging and seeing anew, the value of infusing and strengthening the capacities and resiliency of women where they are initiators of change and leadership, their families and their communities.



Countering Terrorism, contd from pg. 3

some of the complexities of the work, a little of the Security Council’s Counter-Terrorism Committee’s history and development and some of the opportunities and challenges the work faces today.

Dr. Frank Kaufmann, long time inter-religious activist and Executive Director, Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace (IRFWP) addressed the question, “Can Religions Help Counter Terrorism?” He articulated the need for an expert group of religionists, steeped in theologies, practices and well connected with their respective religious communities to engage one another in this work. He began illuminating some aspects of the religious world that cannot be ignored and can in fact provide some resources along with the political, military and economic realms that are the primary resources for the UN system and similar international organizations today.

Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, educator, judge in the French judicial system and recently assigned Chairman of the UN’s Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force underscored commonalities between the universal principles present in many of the UN’s major documents (such as the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, etc.) and the universal principles present in the major religions.

While the topic is enormous in scope, this Forum provided an atypical approach to an urgent area of understanding critical to global well-being and our collective prospects for peace. The organizing committee (Chaired by WFWP International) committed to further discussion in the months to come.

The Forum@Four is a transdisciplinary series of talks, seminars and discussions intended to inform and stimulate new thinking about the prevention of violence, violation and corruption with the intention of fostering meaningful dialogue on the tough questions that face the United Nations, governments and civil society.



Activities Around the World in 2009

WFWP Lebanon, Iran, Jordan & Iraq

Milk Project and Peace Center Project after the 2006 War in Lebanon

The Israel-Hezbollah War in 2006 was a military conflict in Lebanon and northern Israel that lasted more than a month. There were 1200 victims. Many more people lost their homes and families. In these circumstances, WFWP Lebanon began to distribute powdered milk to mothers and children in January 2007.

Milk is an important nutrient for children and mothers and is much needed in homes, especially because many times during the war the children were unable to go out of their houses to buy milk. The project started by distributing 650 kilos of milk for local village mothers and children in school. WFWP members went into the public schools and gave the children milk. People were really happy about this. Smiling faces greeted us. The village was chosen due to the destruction it has survived and its religious diversity. The head of the municipality is non-politicized and was of great help to us.

The project grew larger in the minds of WFWP members. The bigger vision was to establish a community and development peace center. The aim of this center was to help people overcome their grief resulting from the war. The local community supported the project. WFWP members made the mothers and the children of the village their major concern. The children need a center where they can spend their time fruitfully after returning home from school. Hence, WFWP members installed computers in this center and established a public library. The goal was to have the children forget the trauma of war that they experienced. The second focus was the mothers. After a meeting with the mothers, WFWP members supplied them with three sewing machines to work on. The entire project was hosted by the municipality which was working with the people to alleviate the stress of war.

The culmination of this project was the inauguration of the center which had two rooms, one for the women and one for the children. The main feelings of the people can be summarized by the following sentences:

1. "This is the first time that we had an international organization come to help us without any political restriction or any ulterior motives". This was a statement from the mayor at the inauguration.
2. "We are here to give from our hearts. This is only the beginning of cooperation that will follow. Japanese mothers donated this to help you forget the war and move on." This was a statement by Ms. Hermine Schellen at the inauguration.
3. "Thank you for making us smile, and thank you on behalf of the children and mothers for the milk." This was a statement by a member of the municipality during the milk distribution. - - - These projects were made possible by a donation from WFWP Japan.



WFWP Jordan's Iraqi Project in Partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 2008 and 2009

By Fusayo Irikura

Since 2007, WFWP Jordan has been supporting Iraqis who escaped from Iraq. We have provided the opportunity for Iraqi youth to play soccer. Many Iraqis do not have refugee status and are living in Jordan illegally. Therefore they have been facing many difficulties.

Recently, WFWP Jordan members discovered an increasing number of people have serious psychological problems because they have been living in Jordan without their families for 5 to 7 years. For this reason, Fusayo Irikura, Representative of WFWP Jordan decided to live closer to them in order to understand their most urgent needs in their difficult life. In June, 2008 WFWP Jordan received soccer uniforms and equipment donated by UNHCR for an Iraqi Soccer Team consisting of one hundred youth.

In November, 2008 UNHCR offered an opportunity to the Iraqis by way of WFWP Jordan to watch the soccer tournament of the national teams of Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Norway organized by Norway Football Federation. WFWP mobilized 2500 Iraqis to attend the three day event. WFWP Jordan provided bus tickets and snacks so everyone could enjoy the tournament. It was quite an amazing opportunity to see everyone's expressions during the game. Everyone was so excited. They enjoyed the game tremendously and it showed on their faces, which was a vast contrast to their usual suffering expressions.

In December, 2008, WFWP provided many winter items to the Iraqis, funded by UNHCR.

In January, 2009 WFWP Jordan submitted a proposal to UNHCR to open a class for Iraqi youth to learn to play soccer and speak english. UNHCR offered funding of this opportunity as a six month project but due to the economic crises the project ended after four months.

Care International has also partnered in the Iraqi projects since 2008. UNHCR has promised they will support WFWP Jordan projects after the economic situation improves.

WFWP Japan Study to Iran - October 13-20, 2008



WFWP Japan had several exchange programs with NGOs while in Iran and made a donation to the Kahrizak Sanitorium for the Disabled and Elderly. They also had a bazaar in the Zenab Kobras Foundation Orphanage and raised more funds to support the orphanage.



Activities Around the World in 2009

WFWP Cyprus & Israel

WFWP Cyprus Mobilizes to Provide Medicine for Children of Gaza

By Zoe Bennett

In November 2007 the Middle East branch of WFWPI received an urgent appeal from Dr. Abu Said, a pediatrician living and practicing in Gaza.

In Cyprus, where the letter from UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Near East (UNRWA) came, WFWP members felt compelled to do something as soon as possible! WFWP members wrote and sent letters to all the pharmaceutical companies in the area, along with a letter of support from Doctors of the World-Cyprus. About twenty letters were sent. Four pharmaceutical manufacturers donated medicines to supply doctors in Gaza. WFWP also contacted the Director of the Tax Free Department in Israel through Israeli friends. The Director was willing to clear the medicines free of charge. This process took one month. Meanwhile the Palestinian Red Crescent Society got ready to receive the donated medicines. Finally, together with the Doctors of the World, WFWP sent 500kg of medicines on April 21st, 2008!

WFWP members knew that the most difficult challenge was entering Gaza with the medicines. The odyssey had just begun! Once the medicines arrived in Israel they had to be cleared by customs, the health department and finally by the military security. At the beginning of July 2008, WFWP Cyprus received confirmation that at last the medicines had reached hospitals in Gaza.

It is surprising how things can be done with patience and perseverance. When the Doctors of the World-Cyprus asked their French HQ and the Gaza office, the response from both was: "Impossible! Nothing goes in!" From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the initial response was the same: "Don't you want to send the medicines to the Palestinian camps in Jordan or Egypt?"

Yet we managed to find other ways. Many unexpected people gave their assistance. WFWP Cyprus felt an invisible hand guiding the process and the right people to contact. In Arabic, there is a word, "Inshala" which means "God willing". In this case, He was our ally!



Report on the meeting, Human Dignity, Human Right

May 6, 2009 Nicosia, Cyprus

By Zoe Bennett

President of the women's organization of the United Democrats Party, Mrs. Stella Savvides, organized a meeting at the prestigious "Journalists' Home" on behalf of WFWP Cyprus entitled Human Dignity, Human Right.

After the introduction by Mrs. Savvides, Mrs. Antoniadis encouraged everybody to support peace and to listen to what women have to say about peace processes.

WFWPI Vice President for the Middle East, Zoe Bennett gave a presentation on human dignity and women's dignity, based on a powerpoint presentation used in several European countries. It was edited and adapted for the Middle East and translated into Greek for Cyprus. Inspired by the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the talk demonstrates the importance of protecting and enhancing women's dignity in the process of consolidating world peace.

About thirty people were in attendance including presidents or officers of women's organizations from all the Cypriot political parties, and other men and women. Everybody was very interested. There were many key questions at the end. WFWP was asked repeatedly to make the same presentation to schools and other gatherings.

WFWP members formed a plan with the event organizer to hold a similar event in Limassol at the end of the school year, or at the beginning of September.



WFWP Cyprus arranged with the University of Nicosia for two Palestinian Refugee girls to receive scholarships 2008-2009. It was the first time for young refugee girls to pursue studies beyond mandatory school age. They finished this year successfully and WFWP and other NGOs are appealing to welfare office to continue the support.



The Opening of Jewish-Arab Bilingual Creative Kindergarten and an Israel WFWP Center in Haifa



On July 17th 2009 the official opening of "The Buds of the Carmel" kindergarten took place Haifa Israel. The kindergarten is located in Cababir neighborhood which is an interreligious neighborhood. The establishment of the kindergarten was initiated by WFWP member, Arc. Mrs. Khulud Shanbour. This is the first Jewish-Arab kindergarten in Haifa.

Mrs. Shanbour envisioned the kindergarten becoming the center of an activating community of the Jewish-Arab families, while the essence of the education is True Family Values. On the basis of these ideals, the cooperation started between WFWP and Mrs. Shanbour and. She also offered the kindergarten building to be used as a WFWP Northern center in the evenings.

The opening was joyful and colorful. About sixty parents, children and relatives attended and gave each other happy and heart warming greetings. The gathering was honored by the attendance of Mrs. Rosa Shmueli, President of WFWP Israel and Dr. Ora Mor from the Bilingual Department of the Haifa University, who has been guiding Khuloud and the other kindergarten teachers about implementing bilingual education.



13th Annual Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East

May 12-15, 2009 - Vravra, Greece



By *Nadia A. AL-Sakkaf*
Publisher and Editor in
Chief, Yemen Times

Throughout time women have been leaders, often practicing a behind-the-scenes form of leadership known as 'soft leadership.' Achieving peace through reconciling first is the mission taken on by today's women leaders, feeling confident that they can bring reconciliation in the true sense to the world.

"Lasting peace can only come from respecting human rights, especially for women and children," said guest speaker Mr. Ilias Libers, Executive Director of the Hellenic National Committee for UNICEF – Greece at the inauguration session of the Thirteenth Conference for Peace in the Middle East.

The conference was organized by Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) International and by WFWP Japan to "look more pragmatically at the issue of reconciliation and how we can achieve it, which is the foundation for all the other steps towards peace," said Carolyn Handschin, Deputy Director of the United Nations Office of WFWPI.

As early as 1987, pioneers from WFWP Japan started the Asian Women's Federation for Peace that expanded in 1992 into the International Federation for World Peace (Now known as WFWP International). Today WFWPI has nearly 100 national chapters in nine different world regions, and all staff are volunteers. The tradition of annual conferences for Middle East peace started in 1997.

Dr. Lan Young Moon Park, president of WFWP, commented that we are all internationalizing through a multicultural and multi-faith era. Changes are more rapid and more complicated in today's environment because of globalization.

Participants agreed that the problem is the ruling leadership. Power is in the hands of men. However, men are not bringing peace to this global era which calls for diversity and global thinking. This is a time for women to participate wholeheartedly in this world. We need to change our mentality that women are just on the sidelines and not in the mainstream.

Noor Baabad, Assistant Deputy Minister for Social Care, and Nadia Al-Sakkaf, Editor in Chief of Yemen Times, joined 45 leading women from twelve countries across the Middle East, Japan and Korea for a two-day Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East in Vravra, Greece between May 12 and 14, 2009.

Zoe Bennett, vice president of WFWP of the Middle East and North Africa region, said that there is suffering all over the world, particularly in the Middle East. "We have to break through

the barriers of prejudice and stereotyping. This is the UN's year for reconciliation, and in order to make big changes, changes within ourselves have to come first."

"Children face violence in the Middle East in their everyday lives," Ilias Liebers said. "UNICEF considers the Middle East region as highly important because of unacceptable conditions. Children everywhere have suffered too long and are being brought up in unhealthy mental circumstances due to ongoing wars, especially girls because they suffer more from discrimination. More than half of Jordan's children are subjected to some sort of violence in school."

As the conference participants discussed the role of UN and other international agencies, they agreed it is time to join forces to fight violence. We must begin by recognizing women and children as a priority. They are rarely talked about except as victims, yet they can be catalysts for peace. No effort to promote peace can succeed unless we provide protection for vulnerable groups including women and children. We need to promote skills, attitudes and values to bring about behavioral changes that will allow critical thinking, coping, and decision making skills that will lead to peace.

Sonia Billard Fattah, coordinator for women's issues and manager of the on-line education system at the UN Institute for Disarmament Research, said, "we have to dismantle any barriers that we might have and start as individuals and members of a movement in order to establish true reconciliation in the world."

Aida Al-Maainah, wife of the UAE Ambassador in Korea said the Islamic greeting Assalam Alikum, or 'peace be upon you,' and explained that Islam is the culture of peace, evidenced in this greeting. She commented that there are some champions for peace and development in the region, such as Sheikhha Fatima bin Mubarak who works with women, refugees, those with physical hardships and victims of armed conflicts with no regard to religion, nationality or race. She was selected as the Mother of the UAE in 2005.

"At the family level, women can play an important role in peace building, making the house a place for peace and allowing family and visitors to feel peaceful," said Al-Maainah.

Rihab Ghazal, lecturer at the American University of Cairo, explained that reconciliation is the highest form of dialogue. However, before we valued dialogue and communication, but now we build the ability to communicate and engage in dialogue with the ultimate purpose of achieving reconciliation. Education is the way to do this; either formal or informal education. It can foster attitudes of tolerance and encourage the responsibility to reach peace and sustain peace.

"We have to raise our children properly

and change the curriculum to tolerate others, otherwise we will never get there," said Dr. Moza Al-Maliki, a therapist and writer from Qatar and a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Judith Karp, former General Attorney from Israel, brought up the late Sami Adwan as an example. She was the President of the Palestinian and Israeli History Research Institute, one of the few organizations created to reach common ground between Palestinian and Israeli people. "We have a conflicting historical identity narrative. And we need to come to terms with our past in order to advance into a peaceful future," she said.

Stella Savvides, president of the United Democrats Women Organization in Cyprus, explained that the Middle East is one of the regions that has always seen conflict through the years. "Nicosia is the only capital in the world that is divided. I must show my passport if I want to move from the south to the north side of Cyprus, as if I am travelling from one country to another. For 35 years, the people of Cyprus have been separated. We don't want to forget our history but rather we want to build on it. We must keep in mind that we are all Cypriots and that we want to live together. We must use music, games, cultural events and plays to bring young people closer to each other."

Oya Talat, a Cypriot from the Turkish Women Solidarity Council, said that culture determines race rather than race determining culture. "If we want our world to be less problematic, we need to make small successful steps rather than committing big failures," she said. "Come on women, be more actively involved. We need this, and the role of women in reconciliation is important. Since women are not directly involved in the cause of war, we can be more objective in reaching peaceful solutions."

Avital Shapria-Shabirow is the Director of the International Relations Department of the Histadrut-General Federation of Labor in Israel, which is the largest labor organization in Israel with over 7,000 members from many different religions. "It is based on equality, solidarity and brotherhood," she said. "Lasting peace can only be built on genuine relationships among people, and we need to build mutual trust and understanding and recognize the suffering of all sides in any conflict."

She added that in war there are no winners and that people should not let the political situation affect relations. Members of the union set the example of how Arabs and Israelis can work together in peace. "As trade unions, we meet and discuss the work problems. We signed an agreement in June 2008 with Palestinian Transport Union and solved financial disputes. We translate the work rights into Arabic so that Arab employees (which exceed a million persons working for Israeli employers in West

Middle East Peace, continued on pg. 12

Concluding the UNESCO Decade of the Culture of Peace: New Alliances to Fulfill Millenium Development Goal 3

WFWP Europe | June 5-7, 2009 - Paris France

By Elisabeth Riedl and Carolyn Handschin

WFWP Europe's theme for its annual symposium, Forging New Alliances to fulfill MDG #3, gives consideration to the contribution of NGOs as the end of the first Decade for a Culture of Peace approaches in 2010.

Coinciding with the 65th commemoration of the Normandy landing during WWII on June 6, 1944, sixty five women and men from Albania, Austria, Australia, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Somalia, Sudan, UK and USA came together to look toward the agenda for the next decade. The work of the sessions identified gaps left at the end of the Decade and provided recommendations on how women and multi-sectoral partnerships could contribute to filling the gaps.

The Friday evening forum, Constraints to Human Dignity in Fostering a Culture of Peace was opened by the Coordinator for Women's Issues for Mouvement de la Paix in France, Annie Frison. "Mayina" Founder and President, Amelie James Koh Bela spoke on her work in preventing trafficking for sexual exploitation. The third speaker was Co-Founder of "Group International de Paroles de Femmes", Swan Falandry. Closing the session was Dr Maria Chiara Forcella, former Ministry of Health

expert in Italy. She made a presentation on the increasingly prevalent human rights issue of stalking.

The panel on Saturday morning was on Forging New Alliances. There were three subtopics: Men/Women Alliances with the White Ribbon Campaign director in UK, Chris Green, who focused on Men Against Violence Against Women and a representative of Girls@Work. WFWPI Deputy UN Director Carolyn Handschin spoke on the theme, UN, NGOs, and Government Alliances. WFWPI UN Vienna Representative, Elisabeth Riedl and Patricia Earle, WFWP UK Vice President made presentations on Peacebuilding Alliances. After a round of short talks, participants went into working groups to work on the Paris Resolution, available on www.livingdignity.eu

The afternoon workshop on Ethical Challenges for Women was conducted by Dr. Maria Neuberger Schmidt, founder and director of 'Elternwerkstatt' (the Parent Workshop) on the subtheme, Women as a Pivotal Point in the Family. Values based topics were discussed in smaller groups and then reported to the plenary. The final speech of the session was the report of WFWP Europe's Dignity Project by Christine Sato of



WFWP Germany, which calls for a paradigm change in society.

The last session of the day was a three generation discussion on the Dignity of Women Through the Ages. Speakers varied from the representative of the World Organization for Pre-Natal Education, to a youth "dignity" activist and an elder professor from East Germany who experienced her youth behind the Iron Curtain.

Selected national reports from WFWP Europe were presented at the closing plenary



International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2009 New Alliances to Fulfill Millenium Development Goal 3

WFWP Australia | June 23, 2009 - Sydney, Australia

By Jynene Helland

Women's Federation for World Peace Australia and partner Drug Free Australia held a Forum on June 23, 2009 at the State Parliament in Sydney to observe the UN International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, to acknowledge the work of the UN over the past 21 years and to launch Drug Free Australia's latest research publication Cannabis – Suicide, Schizophrenia and Other Ill-Effects, which draws on world-wide current research into the effects of Cannabis.

The event hosted by Honorable David Clarke, Member of Parliament was attended by around sixty community leaders from organizations such as Life Education and Narcotics Anonymous and people working in services supporting members of the community affected by drugs. Support came from both sides of politics and from independent Members of Parliament.

Major Brian Watters, Member of the United Nations International

Narcotics Control Board presented a brief update on global drug policy and how other countries in the OECD are preventing and reducing illicit drug use. Josephine Baxter, Executive Officer, Drug Free Australia (DFA) presented an overview on the current situation in Australia.

Those attending the forum signed a proclamation supporting the UN's campaign "Do drugs control your life? Your life, Your community, No place for drugs".

(Posted at <http://www.unodc.org/drugs/en/events/index.html>)



on Sunday morning. A lively interactive session focused on itemizing conclusions of the working groups to be included in the Paris Resolution was facilitated by C. Handschin. Three NGO leaders were awarded Ambassador for Peace certificates for their remarkable investments toward the goal of A Culture of Peace throughout the Decade.



UNCTAD, contd from pg. 4

regulatory control of greed". Céline Charveriat, Head of the Geneva Office of Oxfam Intl. stated that, "as a result of the crisis, another 55-90 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty in 2009, because of soaring food and fuel prices - this is on top of the 130-155 million already living in extreme poverty in 2008". Yet, UNCTAD/SG, Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, explained his grave concern for the impact on developing countries, "We need to think about people who are not on Wall Street or Main Street but who have no street to walk on at all".



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Middle East Peace, contd from pg. 10

Bank settlements) understand their benefits, such as pensions and get them from the Israeli government. An emergency hotline was created for those who cannot cross the borders so that they can be helped by Histadrut, which assists workers crossing the separation wall to work.

Noor Mohammed Baabad, Deputy Minister of Work and Social Affairs, commented that "Yemen has recognized the strength of reconciliation, both in modern and in ancient times. During the 1960s, it was very important to support the revolution. So many meetings and conferences took place after the 1962 revolution faced serious obstacles, and without reconciliation, none of these meetings would have been successful. Afterwards, it was equally important, if not more so, to support reconciliation when North and South Yemen unified under one republic. Even after this achievement, people still faced illiteracy, poverty, ignorance, revenge and weapons proliferation, a difficult environment. Reconciliation is still important and needed."

Dr. Moza Almaliki explained that reconciliation from within is the most important step. When a person is at peace with him or herself, reconciliation with others is easy and there is a better chance to achieve it. This person with inner peace has flexibility to adapt to the other and accept his or her culture, ideas and religion. If this is achieved, the world will be a better place. Discussions from the sessions concluded that women could and should reconcile as they engage in common cultural and civil society activities. It is important for the world to understand what a great idea reconciliation is and that it should be used to bring peace.

Voices, contd from pg. 7

plan in place for fusion of arms control with disarmament, the NBT cannot work. The role of civil society is critical. Mr. Dhanatha determined to see the goal of a nuclear-free world achieved through commitment of all weapon states, civil society and our youth.

Nobuyasu Abe, former Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs introduced his work as a research consultant to the International Commission for Nuclear Non Proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), which was established to reenergize debate and plan for arms reduction and a nuclear-free world. He suggested making a credible plan for nuclear disarmament that is realistic and practical enough to persuade policymakers to adopt it. A strong global move is urgent since N. Korea said they would carry out another nuclear testing and he believes it is urgent for the US and Russia to reduce their arms substantially, to set the example for all other states to do so as well. Abe described the mass destruction and ongoing repercussions to this day from the catastrophe at Hiroshima. To achieve the aim of the nuclear free world is not easy but we cannot afford to give up.

CSW Luncheon-July, contd from pg. 3

commitments from State parties to raise the visibility of the Convention and its Optional Protocol at the national level, and make better use of the Committee's Concluding Observations, general recommendations and views to achieve the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in all parts of the world.

The NGO CSW NY also invited experts from more than twenty countries who are the Committee members of CEDAW. These experts engaged in dialogue to answer questions and concerns from guests. Ms. Zou Xiaoqiao, Director-General of International Liaison Department, All-China Women's Federation, a Committee member was assigned to dialogue with representatives of WFWPI. She answered questions and addressed key issues ranging from transnational trafficking of women and girl children, women's rights and education, national implementation of the recommendations, reporting and accountability. The luncheon ended with a positive note as Ms. Zou Xiaoqiao cited the successful efforts of the Committee in increasing awareness of the Convention and its approaching universal ratification.

Family, contd from pg. 1

family. We have learned that mutual respect can create unity within families and among cultures and religions. Family needs a common moral and spiritual support to achieve unity within. Priority for education for women will contribute to the achievement of equality of men and women. The concept of family values is the only way to create lasting peace and prosperity. In a family, each member is unique and each assists in the others' whole development. It implies that each has a different character with weaknesses and strengths, but are all called to progress together. Therefore, religion can be a supporting factor in guiding the family to realize the equality of its members, help them to work towards being an example in society and to form a vital and strong base for a strong society to be built on."



Upcoming Events

- ❖ Oct. 16: World Food Day
- ❖ Oct 17: International Day of Eradication of Poverty
- ❖ Oct 24: United Nations Day
- ❖ Oct 21-25: WFWP 10th International Leaders' Workshop in Las Vegas
- ❖ Nov 20: Universal Children's Day
- ❖ Nov 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- ❖ Dec 1: World AIDS Day
- ❖ Dec10: Human Rights Day
- ❖ Mar 1-12: 54th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)