

## The Role of NGOs for Intensifying AIDS Prevention

CSW Luncheon Meeting March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

UNHQ NYC, NY

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Professor Lan Young Moon Park, President of WFPW International, Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama Vice President and Director of UN Office, Women's Federation for World Peace International, Ms. Alexa Ward, President of WFPW USA, distinguished speakers at the workshop, distinguished members of the delegation of Women's Federation for World Peace, Japan, Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, Let me remind you all of the main priorities of the United Nations. The main priorities are to maintain peace and security, promote environmental, economic and social development, preserve and promote human rights. Particularly this year, climate change is an emerging priority. First priority is peace and security.

Problems continue in Darfur, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote de Ivoire, Liberia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia. We had a problem in Gaza. Since last December the Middle East is still a hot zone. Iran, Iraq. Myanmar, Sri Lanka, North Korea, Haiti and the list goes on. Today is an important day. This morning we heard the announcement from the International Criminal Court (ICC) that they had issued an arrest warrant for Sudan's President. This is big news today. This is the first time that an incumbent president of any country has been indicted. He is expected to be arrested. In Sudan the political and humanitarian situation is very difficult. This is an independent decision of the UN, and the UN fully expects the government of Sudan to address the issues of peace and security in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council. Today Sudan is the topic of the day. A few days ago, Gaza was the topic. There is the conflict between Hamas and Israel.

The people of Gaza, their lives, the schools, factories, buildings, trees were the target of bombing. The destruction needs repair. The people need to reconstruct their lives. The situation is delicate in Iraq still, worsening in Afghanistan.

We are worried about the situation in Myanmar, Burma, where the human rights situation is not what we would like to see. The situation is precarious and we need to help them. North Korea is a problem as many Japanese people are worried that at any moment North Korea will launch a missile. They call it a satellite, but still there is a danger that at any moment the tension could worsen in that part of the world. Now I know that the Japanese people are very worried about the situation in the Korean peninsula. But so is the United Nations. The United Nations has to worry about this whole list of problems in order to maintain peace and security. The world is getting safer, more prosperous. But we still have to face the problems in Africa, Asia, Middle East, Haiti in order to maintain peace and security.

The United Nations needs your help to raise awareness about the problems in Darfur, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Haiti. I wonder if the Japanese people have as much awareness about the people suffering in these places. You are needed to help raise the awareness about these situations.

The second priority of the United Nations I told you about is the state of affairs of development. The financial crisis is causing deterioration in development progress everywhere. We are worried about the prospect of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. We have less than six years to reduce the number of people living on less than one dollar a day by half. How can you live on a dollar or less a day? To insure universal primary education for children is improving throughout the world, but

still the ratio in Africa is about 70%. Seventy million children are not in school in Africa. The number is staggering.

The third objective, to maintain gender equality is getting better, thanks to your efforts, but still, in schools, girls are discriminated against over boys. In many African countries we will not be able to achieve the targets.

The other objectives such as infant mortality, maternal mortality the situation is really serious. Half a million pregnant women die every year. And infant mortality, in Africa many children die of diarrhea, malaria, measles. Those are all preventable. If you get diarrhea here, you just drink clean water with salt added and in a few hours it will stop. Or acute respiratory disorder, preventable or curable. But because in many countries clean water is not available, one in six people are not enjoying clean water. Two billion people do not have any access to sanitation.

AIDs, this is a subject of interest to you. Currently we are not at the situation we had hoped. Currently 33 million people are living with HIV. In 2007, more than 2.7 million people were newly infected by AIDS. 20 ml people have died. AIDS is among the Top 10 killers in world and one of top killers in Africa. 67% of AIDS cases are in Africa. African development is primary. We have got to address all those goals. Next year the UN will organize a summit in Africa on the MDGs.

Third priority is human rights. Last year we celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of human rights. So awareness was raised. But still terrible human rights violations still continue. In DRC, women and girls are being raped, gang raped as a tool of war. 30% of these rape victims are infected by HIV/AIDS. We heard about a case of a teenage girl in Somalia who was gang raped. She reported to authorities and she was convicted of adultery and sentenced to stoning. Hundreds of people gathered to watch her stoning. How can we stop this? We can issue statements to condemn these acts. The SG began his campaign against violence against women. We need your help. This violence has got to stop. Attention needs to be brought to these terrible violations of human rights.

The other priority is climate change. There is not much more time to discuss this, but I want to tell you that Kyoto 2 will be held in December in Copenhagen. An international agreement will be formed. Japan, U.S. and many developing countries have important roles to play. In order to get countries to live up to their agreements, NGOs, Civil Society, media needs to hold the countries accountable to what they agree.

You are working for world peace. Next year there will be a review of NPT, nonproliferation treaty. It seems like a dream to live without nuclear warheads, but actually now, even Dr. Henry Kissinger is writing an article about the importance of this so it is possible. So those are the priorities. It is difficult, a lot of work, but it is needed. We need your help to bring world peace and to make the UN stronger. Please help us.