

**Meeting of the Millennium +5 NGO Network  
25 February 2005  
Baha'i International Community New York Office**

**1. Report on the outcomes of the February 17th "NGO Consultation on the Millennium Review Summit" side event of the 43rd Session of the Commission for Social Development.**

- A brief presentation was given on the interventions given at the NGO Consultation. A compiled document of the outcomes will be distributed on the list serve soon.
- It was proposed that a website be used to present information from the NGO Consultation, including a summary of the interventions and a sound-file of the consultation recording. The UN DPI/NGO - CONGO website was identified as a possibility.
- It was noted that the Millennium +5 NGO Network list serve could be used for a discussion of the NGO Consultation results
- It was agreed that the e-mail addresses of the NGO Consultation attendees should be added to the list serve.

**2. Update on NGO proposals for UNGA hearing with Civil Society, June 23 - 24th, 2005**

- A discussion arose about the dissemination of NGO documents concerning the UNGA Hearing. Two alternative documents were considered: a paper produced following a meeting of NGOs with the Facilitators from Norway and Nicaragua on 17 February, and a shorter version which was presented to the meeting as more suitable for widespread circulation to NGOs all around the world, who at this stage have no knowledge of the proposed GA Hearing in June. Opinions differed on the relative importance of clarity versus transparency. It was eventually proposed that:
  1. All the relevant documents be posted on a website, possibly the UN DPI/NGO and/or CONGO websites, so that they are available for reference purposes
  2. The summary information document, along the lines tabled at the meeting, be widely circulated to NGOs
  3. A narrative describing the process and the datelines be included in this document.
- The differences between the document discussed at the meeting with the Facilitators and the summary information document:
  - The summary does not refer to the NGO Task Force or go into details about the modalities of the UNGA Hearing
  - The summary adds a reference to the M+5 NGO Network list serve.
- It was agreed that efforts should be made to include NGOs from all over the world on the list serve so that they can receive notice on the documents and activities related to the M+5 NGO Network.

- Pera Wells volunteered to write the proposed narrative and update the summary information paper.
- In a discussion about translating these documents, Shamina De Gonzaga volunteered to provide versions translated into Russian, Spanish and French, Leilei Duan will translate a Chinese version, and Joseph Donnelly will provide the German version.
- NGLS noted, to put the NGO input process into context, that:
  - The GA President originally intended NGO input to provide information for the GA President and Facilitators in order to allow them to make an informed decision on the UNGA Hearing
  - The GA President and the Facilitators will be making decisions within the next days on the general format of the UNGA Hearing: a resolution will need to be acted upon by the General Assembly by the end of March
  - NGLS noted the difficulties that Brazil was having in gaining acceptance for their draft resolution on the Cardoso Panel report on UN relations with civil society
  - The NGO proposal to set up a Task Force of NGOs to work closely with the Facilitators was being questioned and may not be formally endorsed.
- Paul Hoeffel mentioned that a Web cast of the UNGA Hearing is a possibility, though there remain the questions of costs and fundraising. He said that there are no fundamental objections to this option.

### **3. Strategy for compiling a digest of M+5 reports for submission to the GA Hearing.**

- The format of a report for general distribution was agreed upon.
  - Mark Shelford, Shamina De Gonzaga volunteered to act as the initial core of a report writing committee
  - This committee should learn from mistakes made in the follow through of the 2000 Millennium Forum.

### **4. Participation of Southern NGOs at the Hearing.**

- It was proposed that the funds remaining from the Millennium Forum should be used to subsidize the participation of Southern NGOs. It was noted that selection problems and costs would complicate this. Joe Donnelly proposed that an intern from a Southern NGO could be funded to participate in activities leading up to the UNGA Hearing.

### **5. Side Events at the UNGA Hearing**

- Pera Wells suggested that at future meetings of this Network we should consider side events for the UNGA Hearing. She announced that a seminar to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Dag Hammarskjöld will be held 22 June.

### **6. Calendar of Events**

\* March 3rd, 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon, UN DPI/NGO NGO Briefing "Millennium + 5 Process: Civil Society Preparations Town Hall Meeting," UN DH Auditorium

- Paul Hoeffel asked participants to consider what they would like to present; Fannie Munlin will represent the M+5 NGO Network

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next Millennium +5 NGO Network meeting will be held on 11 March 2005, from 3:30pm-5:00pm at the Baha'i downstairs conference room (866 United Nations Plaza, suite 120, on the corner of 48<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue)

*Notes compiled by Mark Shelford, WFUNA*