

UN



WE BELIEVE

NGO REPORTER

Published Quarterly by the NGO/DPI Executive Committee

Vol. 11 No. 7

By NGOs For NGOs

August 2005

OUR CHALLENGE: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal ...

... is the carefully considered theme of this year's 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, 7-9 September 2005, organized in partnership with the United Nations Department of Public Information. This much-anticipated gathering will take place on the eve of the 2005 Summit of world leaders that opens the following week.

Preparations for this year's Conference, as usual, began shortly after completing a final evaluation of the 57th Annual Conference. The current Planning Committee, with more than fifty active members and fourteen subcommittees, began its weekly meetings in January 2005. This year, the Secretary-General's report, *In Larger Freedom*, became the inspiration and basis for the 2005 DPI/NGO Conference agenda. The process of selecting topics, speakers, modalities, workshops, venues and logistics unfolded smoothly, once the general theme of the Conference had been determined.

This September's gathering of NGOs will be an activist Conference, with two main goals: to help implement the Millennium Development Goals, and to mobilize civil society in human rights-based action. The plenary agenda will reflect the concerns and priorities of NGOs, notably, development, peace and security, human rights, and strengthening the UN. Thirty Midday Workshops and interactive dialogues, featuring representatives of civil society, the United Nations and government, will complement the plenary agenda.

"OUR CHALLENGE," therefore, is to make our voices heard. This year's Annual Conference will be a quintessential time and place for furthering the cause. Participants from every region of the world will be engaged in open discourse and will have a rare opportunity to discuss problems and possible solutions in a global setting.

Whether the topic is the status of the MDG's, or the rate of poverty reduction, or the membership of UN councils and commissions, the NGO community is challenging the status quo of "business as usual." We are challenging ourselves as well to develop effective partnerships and a stronger role for civil society in the international community.

As of late July, 2500 NGOs, sponsors and presenters from around the world have registered for the Conference. We hope to see you in September. *Every voice counts!*

**Joseph Cornelius Donnelly, Chair,
Conference Planning Committee**

Choose an approved travel package to NY: Support the 58th DPI/NGO Conference - visit our site for more details!

www.ngodpiexecom.org/travel



A subcommittee of the 58th Annual DPI/NGO Planning Committee hard at work for you, the United Nations and a better world for all.

YOU ARE INVITED

The Executive Committee is pleased to invite you to participate in the newly established NGO Mentor Program, which it hopes will enable new representatives of NGOs associated with DPI to become familiar with the UN system. They will receive help and encouragement from NGO representatives who have had several years of experience working with DPI/NGO.

- Are you a new NGO/DPI representative in need of some UN guidance?
- Are you an experienced representative and willing to devote some extra time to help a newcomer?

Sign up for the NGO Mentor Program by sending an email with your contact information to lester.wilson@liu.edu. Specify your main areas of interest.

NGOevents.org:

***THE PLACE TO SAVE PAPER AND
ADVERTISE YOUR EVENTS
FOR ALL TO SEE!***

NGOevents.org is a service to the United Nations NGO community designed to gather all NGO-related events at the United Nations into one calendar and facilitate coordination, information sharing and public knowledge of the contributions of civil society to the UN.

The main features of the calendar are:

- **Provides a concise, comprehensive online calendar of all relevant NGO events (conferences, sym-posia, meetings, forums, etc.) related to the United Nations;**
- **Enables NGOs to easily submit their events to the calendar;**
- **Enables users to view the calendar by specific issue areas (women, MDGs, peace and security, etc.) as well as by month, week and day.**

NGOevents.org is sponsored and supported by the Millennium+5 NGO Network, a joint initiative of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee. NGOs are invited to visit www.NGOevents.org and submit their events to the calendar. For more information, please contact: rik.panganiban@ngocongo.org.

Rik Panganihan, CONGO

NGO / STUDENT LINKAGE PROGRAM

Of the thousands of NGOs associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information, many do not have representation at UN Headquarters and consequently are often marginalized from the events that take place there. In an effort to alleviate this situation, and to encourage more young people to participate in work of the UN, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee will initiate a program of linkages between students in the New York City area and NGOs in developing countries.

This program, to be launched in October 2005, will involve graduate students and NGOs in developing countries. The students, all of whom will be pursuing graduate degrees in development-related fields, will be introduced to and work closely with participating NGOs. Based on the NGOs' activities and interests, the students will correspond with and provide relevant UN-related information that would be difficult to obtain otherwise. NGOs will also be able, through their student contacts in New York, to communicate more directly with the NGO/DPI section at Headquarters.

Shamina de Gonzaga
Youth Liaison for the Executive Committee



NGO/DPI ELECTIONS

Elections for the NGO/DPI Executive Committee were held on June 2, 2005. The newly elected members of the Committee will begin serving their terms in September. The new officers will be Joan Kirby, Chair, and Janet Stovin, Secretary. The newly elected or re-elected members are: Anne-Marie Carlson, Joseph Donnelly, Muriel Hertan, Jeffrey Huffines, Daniel Uitti and Anne Zanes. They will all serve for two years. The following officers are continuing for an additional year: Aaron Etra, Vice-Chair, Doris Schapira, Vice-Chair, and Jonina Sutton, Treasurer. Committee members also serving an additional year are: Yee Ching-Lee, Shamina De Gonzaga, Maram Hallak, Lynn Karpo-Lantz, Judy Lerner, L. Eudora Pettigrew and Patrick L. Sciarratta.

Doris Schapira, Chair, Elections Committee

UNA-USA MAKES IT MARK ON CIVIL SOCIETY

In today's political climate, the United Nations is increasingly turning to civil society for assistance and advice, and vice versa. However, with large numbers of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) now accredited at the UN, it is difficult to balance various agendas and information, not to mention numerous constituencies and points of view. The United Nations Association of the USA, a not-for-profit foreign policy and grassroots organization based in New York City, is trying to bridge this gap by working in coalition with the UN and NGOs to educate engaged citizens about the UN and its vital role in the world. In pursuit of this goal, The Association recently focused on the UN's 60th anniversary and teamed up with the World Federation of UNAs (WFUNA) to bring together members of 50 UN Associations around the globe for a convention to discuss and support the UN. Held March 2-7, 2005 in New York City, 150 members of UNA-USA attended the convention, as did 60 representatives from other UNAs, including seven from Africa, 18 from Europe, 2 from the Middle East and 13 from the Americas.

In correlation with the theme "UN60: A Time for Renewal," more than two dozen events were held, including panel discussions, presentations, best-practices sharing, working lunches and film screenings. Topics covered included such issues as US-UN relations, UN reform, and Millennium Development Goals, while speakers included permanent representatives, NGO leaders, and US government and UN officials, including Mark Malloch Brown, Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Chief of Staff, who delivered the keynote address.

Many NGOs simply do not have the time or resources to tell the UN's story *and* relate the importance of

UN issues to their constituents, explained UNA-USA Program Manager Chris Bailey. "Our unique perspective," he argued, "is to offer a critical bridge between the UN, citizens and civil society leaders."

Visit: www.unausa.org

Angie Drakulich, Managing Editor, UNA/USA

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

The NGO/DPI Executive Committee has stepped up its efforts to develop reliable sources of funding for its activities on behalf of the NGO community. As there are no Conference fees or membership fees, the Committee must rely on the generosity and creativity of the 1,500 NGOs associated with DPI to meet its costs. In its partnership with the DPI/NGO Section, the Committee makes a substantial contribution to help defray the expenses of the annual DPI/NGO Conference. It has been laying the foundation for a future in which fundraising will grow in tandem with its financial obligations.

The Committee seeks to generate funding through its members' professional contacts and sources. In this regard, some NGOs have been able to help fund the travel costs of plenary speakers, and others have provided support through in-kind contributions, including equipment for the NGO Resource Centre, design consultants for the Conference identity, a proposed commemorative fundraising journal for the Conference, and logistical support for Conference attendees at the 2005 Conference through special travel and hotel packages, with part of the monies received being made available to the Committee. For those who wish to contribute to the financial well-being of the Committee, please contact Joan Levy.

Aaron Etra, Executive Committee Vice-Chair

ART CENTER COLLEGE OF DESIGN

Art Center College of Design has been a leader in art and design education for nearly 75 years. Located in Pasadena, California, it offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in a wide range of disciplines. The College also has been very generous in assisting, without fees, the NGO Section in the creation of promotional materials, especially for the annual conferences. The poster this year is especially creative. The Executive Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation for this continuing, and rewarding, association with Art Center College. (The new layout for the *NGO Reporter* was created by Art Center staff member, Stephanie Sigg.) Visit: www.artcenter.edu

Editors' Desk

FAREWELL

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the over 1500 NGOs associated with the Department of Public Information. The NGO/DPI Executive Committee has seen many changes in recent years. It has grown increasingly close to the DPI and worked together on many projects, particularly on the Annual DPI/NGO Conference, where the scope of the Conference agenda continues to expand each year.

The Committee has formed partnerships with other NGO Organizations to establish a Millennium+5 NGO Network, a group that played an important role in a recent, first ever, two-day meeting between representatives from NGOs, civil society, the private sector and governments, held in the General Assembly.

The NGO/DPI Executive Committee and CONGO developed a much-needed Calendar for NGO and United Nations events. Also, the Executive Committee, the DPI and the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena developed an interactive website designed to bring NGOs around the world closer to the United Nations. Three Communications workshops have been offered each year and have received excellent audience evaluations. A proposed mentoring program, pairing new NGO Representatives with more experienced ones, will be launched in September.

It is therefore with a sense of pride and some sadness that I say farewell but not good-by. I will remain close to and work with the Executive Committee to further the activities of the United Nations. I welcome my successor, Sister Joan Kirby, who will take office in September, and wish her every success.

Joan Levy, Chair



USEFUL LINKS

58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, September 2005
“Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal.”
Visit: : www.unngodpiconference.org

UN Pulse

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library at the UN Headquarters in New York recently created a new blog called “UN Pulse: Connecting to UN Information.”

The blog focuses on just-released UN system-wide online information, major reports, publications and documents. Created and maintained by a team of reference librarians, UN Pulse is updated as new information is published and received. There is also a RSS feed.

Visit: www.un.org/Depts/dhl/unpulse/index

Translation Service

AltaVista Babel Fish provides online text and web page language translation. Visit: www.babelfish.altavista.com

NGO REPORTER

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