



58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal

United Nations, New York
7-9 September 2005

Story Idea 1

Voices for Poverty Eradication

According to the Millennium Development Goals Report published in May 2005, one billion people live on less than a dollar a day, and more than a quarter of children in the developing world are malnourished. Many developing countries spend more money on debt repayments than on feeding their people. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), 184.7 million people worldwide are unemployed. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is responsible for the death of 3.2 million people of working-age worldwide. Civil strifes have left entire economies in ruins, causing poverty all over the world.

In his report, *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All*, the Secretary-General calls for action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The report emphasizes that by 2006, each country should develop a national agenda to meet the Goals. Developing countries should find underlying causes for extreme poverty and donors must meet their demands.

To achieve the MDGs by 2015, the United Nations, governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society must work together to strengthen the global community. For example, ILO organized recovery strategies for countries in South-East Asia, affected by the recent tsunami tragedy. These strategies included the creation of jobs while rebuilding infrastructure, setting up emergency public employment services and adequate training, and the provision of technical advice and social protection for people in both formal and informal economies. These measures have provided people with incomes and boosted local economies. To raise adequate financial resources, ILO worked with 40 United Nations agencies and NGOs. Oxfam, Care, International Rescue Committee (IRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Caritas Internationalis, International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), SOS-Kinderdorf International, and Save the Children were among some of the major players involved in the tsunami relief work in Indonesia.

A series of concerts was organized by advocates for complete debt cancellation, more and better aid and trade justice for the world's poorest people in London, Edinburgh, Philadelphia, Berlin,

Paris, Rome, Barrie, Tokyo, Johannesburg and Moscow on 2 July on the eve of the G8 Summit in Gleneagles. Live 8, as part of the *Long Walk to Justice*, was a joint effort of a number of NGO, civil society and private sector representatives.

The G8 Gleneagles Summit indeed agreed to double aid for Africa by 2010 and cancel the debt of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) owed to the International Development Association (IDA), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the African Development Fund. The G8 leaders also agreed to continue this conversation at the 2005 World Summit in September, where financing for development, including debt relief, will be one of the main items on the agenda. Member States are expected to adopt an outcome document that aims to achieve complete cancellation of official debt of most HIPC and significant debt reduction for many indebted non-HIPC and middle income developing countries.

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During the 58th DPI/NGO Conference, the following speakers will share their experiences, expertise and views on the eradication of poverty, the MDGs, debt relief and unemployment:

Jan Egeland, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Wahu Kaara, Coordinator, Kenya Debt Relief Network (KENDREN); MDG Programme Officer, All Africa Council of Churches; Member, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

Ziad Abdel-Samad, Executive Director, Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)

Kemal Dervis, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Anwarul Chowdhury, United Nations High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States

Diana Medman, Chairperson, Russian Women's Microfinance Network; Director, AO Bioprocess, Russia

Mamphela Ramphele, Co-Chair, Global Commission on International Migration

Salil Shetty, Director, United Nations Millennium Development Goals Campaign, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director, Tebtebba Foundation, Philippines; Member, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Ann Veneman, Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Teclaire Ntomb, President, Groupe d'Initiative Commune des Paysannes de Bogso (GICPAB), Cameroon

Uwen Robert Otu, President, African Youth Movement, Nigeria

Alejandra Scampini, Uruguay Director, Red de Educación Popular entre Mujeres (REPEM); Representative, Feminist Task Force, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

Paul Tennessee, United Nations Representative, World Confederation of Labour

Juan Somavia, Director-General, International Labour Organisation (ILO)

During the three days, a number of midday workshops organized by NGOs will also focus on eradication of poverty, debt relief and implementing the MDGs. The workshops will include the following speakers:

Arjun Karki, Regional Coordinator, India, South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication; President, Rural Reconstruction Nepal; President, NGO Federation of Nepal

Vera Camerotti, Project Manager, VIDES International, São Paulo, Brazil

Isobel Coleman, Senior Fellow and Director, US Foreign Policy and Women's Programs,

Council on Foreign Relations
Li Xiaolin, Vice President, People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, China

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Useful Links:

58th DPI/NGO Conference www.unngodpiconference.org

In Larger Freedom <http://www.un.org/largerfreedom/>

Millennium Campaign <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org>

The 2005 World Summit: An Overview <http://www.un.org/ga/documents/overview2005summit.pdf>

High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly – Draft Outcome Document

http://www.un.org/ga/59/hlpm_rev.2.pdf

Long Walk to Justice www.live8live.com

G8 Gleneagles Summit <http://www.g8.gov.uk>