



## 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

### Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal

United Nations, New York  
7-9 September 2005

#### Story Idea 2

#### Voices for Peace: Peacebuilding Commission – A More Effective Conflict Resolution

As of mid-2005 there were a total number of 10 “major wars” – inflicting 1,000 battlefield deaths per year – and 24 “lesser” conflicts, according to non-governmental organization (NGO) resources. Seventy-five per cent of people killed or wounded in wars are non-combatants. Last year witnessed an unprecedented surge in United Nations peacekeeping operations raising hopes and prospects of ending conflicts and bringing peace to war-torn countries. Currently, there are 16 peacekeeping operations. However, half of all countries that emerge from wars fall back into violence within five years. Peace agreements must be made to last.

To make the United Nations more effective in maintaining international peace and security, and in fulfilling its responsibility to protect, the Secretary-General in his report *In Larger freedom: Towards Security, Development and Human Rights for All* proposes to establish an intergovernmental Peacebuilding Commission with the main task of harmonizing peacebuilding activities across the multilateral system, bringing together the different international and regional actors involved and providing a forum for sharing information on their respective post-conflict strategies. As an advisory body, the Peacebuilding Commission would report to the Security Council and to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Commission would be comprised of an equal number of Security Council and ECOSOC Member States, major troop contributing and donor States and major national and regional actors.

The establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission would attempt to fill an institutional gap of the United Nations system as there is no machinery in place to ensure sustainable peace and effectively address the challenges facing countries in transition from war to peace.

Possible advantages of establishing the Peacebuilding Commission include:

- Ensuring that the international community is effectively supporting national authorities;
- Proposing overall priorities that reflect country-specific realities;
- Mobilizing necessary resources;
- Providing a forum for ensuring coordination and resolving complications or differences;
- Extending political attention to recovery beyond the period of Security Council involvement by working with ECOSOC and other relevant bodies

Although there is broad agreement among Member States of the necessity of such an organ, several issues including core functions, tools and peacebuilding strategies remain to be developed. Other issues to be addressed include the Commission's possible effect on the Security Council's role in maintaining international peace and security, and defining the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

The Draft Outcome document for the 2005 World Summit suggests that these outstanding issues should be addressed and resolved as soon as possible so that the Peacebuilding Commission can begin operations no later than 31 December 2005.

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During the 58<sup>th</sup> DPI/NGO Conference, the following speakers will share their experiences, expertise and views on peace and security challenges ahead:

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

**Fatou Bensouda**, Deputy Prosecutor, International Criminal Court (ICC)

**Antonio Maria Costa**, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

**Gareth Evans**, President and Chief Executive, International Crisis Group (ICG)

**Daniel Opande**, Former Lieutenant General of Kenya; Former Force Commander, United Nations Mission in Liberia

**Hazuki Yasuhara**, International Coordinator, Peaceboat

**Paul van Tongeren**, Executive Director, European Centre for Conflict Prevention

**Jan Eliasson**, President-Elect, Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly

**Shirin Ebadi**, Founder and Former President, National Association in Support of Children's Rights; President, Human Rights Defence Centre, Iran

During the three days, a number of midday interactive workshops organized by NGOs will also focus on international peace and security. These include discussions on nuclear disarmament and the international day of peace; the new paradigm of security and peace; development and peacebuilding through justice; the role of the media in promoting peace; children as victims of violence; etc. The workshops will feature the following speakers:

**Wendy Harcourt**, Editor, Development and Programme Advisor, Society for International Development, Rome, Italy

**Manuel Manonelles**, UBUNTU-World Forum of Civil Society, Barcelona, Spain

**Sadig Rashed**, Senior Policy Advisor, United Nations Children's Fund; Member, Governing Council, Society for International Development, Sudan

**John Tirman**, Executive Director, Center for International Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Hou Hongyu**, Research Fellow, The Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, China

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Useful Links:

58<sup>th</sup> DPI/NGO Conference [www.unngodpiconference.org](http://www.unngodpiconference.org)

In Larger Freedom [www.un.org/largerfreedom](http://www.un.org/largerfreedom)

Millennium Campaign [www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org)

The 2005 World Summit: An Overview [www.un.org/ga/documents/overview2005summit.pdf](http://www.un.org/ga/documents/overview2005summit.pdf)

High-Level Plenary Meeting of the GA – Draft Outcome Document [www.un.org/ga/59/hlpm\\_rev.2.pdf](http://www.un.org/ga/59/hlpm_rev.2.pdf)

UN Reform <http://www.un.org/reform>

Report of the Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change

<http://www.un.org/secureworld>

UN peacekeeping operations <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/index.asp>