



UN-NGO -IRENE UPDATE

Issue no 1

“The United Nations once dealt only with Governments. By now we know that peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without partnerships involving Governments, international organizations, the business community and civil society. In today’s world, we depend on each other”

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, Davos, January 1999

BACKGROUND:

The UN NGO Informal Regional Network (**UN-NGO-IRENE**) is initiated by the NGO Section, UNDESA and is based on ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, which seeks to accommodate the increasing number and diversity of NGOs worldwide “in order to help achieve a just, balanced, effective and genuine involvement from all regions and areas of the world”. UN-NGO-IRENE aims at a consolidated NGO effort towards the implementation of the UN’s *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs) in partnership with the United Nations, governments and the business community. The Launch of the Network worldwide took place in Aracaju, Brazil in March 2001. Its African regional network was launched in January 2002 in Hammamet, Tunisia. Eastern Europe was the second regional network to be implemented in May 2003, in Bucharest, Romania.

WHAT’S NEW

- **General Voluntary Trust Fund in Support of the Informal Regional Network UN-NGO-IRENE**
E/2002/225
- **UN-NGO -IRENE Africa established in 2002**
 - ◆ **Regional Coordinator:** *Women’s Association Tunisia 21* (Tunisia): belajouza@karthago.com.tn
 - ◆ **Sub-regional Coordinators:**
 - North Africa:** *Women’s Association Tunisia 21* (Tunisia): belajouza@karthago.com.tn
 - West Africa:** *Coalition of Families for the Fight Against AIDS and Poverty* (Burkina Faso): kadia@fasonet.bf
 - Central Africa:** *The League for Education of Women and Children* (Cameroon): pauline.biyong@camnet.cm
 - East Africa:** *United Nations Association-Ethiopia* (Ethiopia): mussiepeace@yahoo.co.uk
 - Southern Africa:** *Angola Network for Poverty Reduction* (Angola): afonsofransisco@hotmail.com
- **UN-NGO-IRENE Eastern Europe established in 2003**
 - ◆ **Regional Coordinator:** *Black Sea University Foundation* (Romania): bseau@rnc.ro
 - ◆ **Sub-regional Coordinators:**
 - South-Eastern Europe:** *Association for Democratic Initiatives* (Macedonia) albert@adi.org.mk
 - Central Eastern Europe:** *Federation for Women and family Planning* (Poland) polfedwo@waw.pdi.net
- **ECOSOC High-level Segment** on “Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development”, Geneva, July 2003.

Several IGOs and NGOs contributed actively to the work of the plenary sessions including *All India Women's Education Fund Association, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and International, Common Fund for Commodities, Institute for the use of Micro-Algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition, International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, The World Conservation Union and World Federation of United Nations Associations. The Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture (FPSC)* presented on behalf of 23 NGOs from Europe, Asia, Africa and South-America the recommendations of the preparatory workshop that this NGO held in the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation in April 2003 with the support of the NGO Section, DESA. *The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO)* represented more than 90 NGOs whose views had been expressed at the ECOSOC High-Level NGO Forum held in Geneva in June 2003. Also, NGOs made written statements and enhanced the debate during the Ministerial Roundtable Breakfasts, as well as the multiple Panel Discussions.

Ministerial Declaration E.2003.L9* adopted

<http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N03/411/23/PDF/N0341123.pdf?OpenElement>

COMING SOON

- ◆ Handbook on **UN-NGO-IRENE**: Under production.
- ◆ Project on: **“Capacity building for the UN-NGO-Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) in Africa to strengthen United Nations Partnership with African Civil Society Organizations and Governments to meet the Millennium Development Goals”**: Ready to implement upon funding.
- ◆ Project on: **“Promoting UN Partnership Initiatives with Leading African NGOs and Strengthening their capacity to enhance their contribution to the MDGs for Human Security and Local Sustainable Development”**: Formulated and will be submitted to the Japanese Human Security Fund.

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION / EXAMPLE *To Follow*

Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Peaceful Northeast Asia, 41st Global Peace Boat Voyage

Friday 8 August, the Japan based NGO *Peace Boat* reached New York and the UN on their 41st international Peace Boat cruise. Only a few years after successfully applying for ECOSOC status (2002), this NGO is doing an exemplary work by initiating a concrete agenda for peace and a nuclear-free environment. Matching the UN's fundamental vision of peace and the MDGs as guided by the NGO Section, the NGO's hands-on manner of working has lately manifested a very concrete incentive and capacity for conflict prevention. It put forth a proposition paper to the states involved in the Northeast Asia nuclear crisis, suggesting to the Under Secretary General for the Department of Disarmament Affairs and the international civil society to initiate a diplomatic process towards disarmament, security and peace. For the Position paper and more information, please see <http://www.peaceboat.org/english/index.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS 2003 *Not to Miss! *

8-10 Sep > [56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference](#)

Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations

15-26 Sep > [WSIS - World Summit on the Information Society - 3rd Preparatory Committee - Geneva](#)

22 Sep > [Panel Discussion on HIV/AIDS - New York](#)

Implementing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: From Policy to Practice - Progress Achieved, Lessons Learned and Best Practices.

23 Sep - 3 Oct > [General Assembly, 58th Session - General Debate - New York](#) under president Hon. Senator Julian Hunte

15-19 Dec > [Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations - 2003 Resumed Session - New York](#)

USEFUL LINKS

- ♦ <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>
- ♦ <http://www.unpan.org/NGO.asp>

NGOs' CONTRIBUTION

Now you can submit your comments, remarks and success-stories to share... to your newsletter! Thank you

- ♦ The Executive Director of Time Foundation, our friend Milena Tanusheva, (www.time-foundation.org) from Bulgaria recommends the website of *The International Research and Exchanges Board* (www.irex.org) that supports independent media and issues small grants for telecommunication development.
- ♦ If you are interested in environment issues, you could subscribe to plenetere3@yahoogroups.com, a newly established forum by our friend Serge Akagah (*Les Amis du Pangolin*) from Gabon and other NGOs.

CONTACT US

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