



UN-NGO -IRENE UPDATE

Issue no 2

WHAT'S NEW

- Online information and **application for NGOs ECOSOC Consultative Status** is now at your disposal on the NGO Section's website at <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>
- NGO Section **Advisory Services and Support** available upon NGOs' request for training and capacity building workshops, as support to specific outstanding events and preparatory work for the ECOSOC substantive High Level Segment (HLS) and Coordination Segment (CS) Sessions 2004. Please send your requests to Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, chief NGO Section, at mezoui@un.org
- To improve the working methods of the ECOSOC NGO Committee and reduce the burden and work-lot of the delegates and the secretariat, the NGO Section / DESA initiated a pilot project "**Paperless Committee**". Taking into account its successful implementation during the 2003 Regular Session of the Committee in May 2003, the project is extended to the Resumed Sessions of the Committee this coming December.
- All issues of the UN-NGO-IRENE Update are available on the UN-NGO-IRENE website at: <http://www.unpan.org/NGO.asp>
- A new **Directory of African NGOs**, developed by UN-NGO-IRENE 's partner OSCAL, is available on the UN-NGO-IRENE website at: <http://www.unpan.org/NGO-Africa-Directory/index.htm>

COMING SOON

A pilot partnership initiative between civil society organizations from north and south, the UN and governments, a project on "*Integrated rural development programme for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development in Middle East and North African Countries to strengthen United Nations Partnership with Civil Society Organizations and Governments to meet the Millennium Development Goals*" has been initiated by the *Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture* and the *Euro-Arab network of NGOs for Development and integration* (READI) in partnership with the NGO Section ECOSOC / UN DESA. The project aims at contributing to the implementation of the four following MDGs in seven countries (Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Spain and Tunisia).

1. **MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger** - Improvement in food security and income of vulnerable families in the south of the Mediterranean
2. **MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women** – Reduction in the feminine rural exodus and improvement in women's social role in the south of the Mediterranean
3. **MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability** – Increasing secured access and sufficient hygienic water supply and resources in the south of the Mediterranean

4. **MDG 8: Develop a global partnership** – Enhance and promote networking and building capacities and training

The project is a follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration and recommendations of the Substantive Session of 2003 on “Promoting an Integrated Approach for Rural development in Developing Countries to Eradicate Poverty and to Achieve Sustainable development” which took place in Geneva 30 June – 25 July 2003. During this session, the *Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture (Fundación Promoción Social de la Culture)* submitted a written statement to the Secretary General (E/2003/NGO), presenting the conclusions and recommendations of a preparatory workshop organized by the *Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture* and the *Euro-Arab network of NGOs for Development and Integration (READI)*, to enhance the NGO contribution to the ECOSOC debate. This workshop took place in the *Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI)* from 28 to 29 April 2003, with the participation of 23 NGOs from 10 different countries from Africa, Europe and South America, and with the support of Ms. Najet Karaborni, Coordinator of the UN-NGO-IRENE, NGO Section, DESA.

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION / EXAMPLE * To Follow *

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict – the Role of Civil Society in the Prevention of armed Conflict.

Following Recommendation 27 of the Report of the UN Secretary General on Prevention of Armed Conflict, the *European Center for Conflict Prevention (ECCP)* has taken a vital step by initiating a global partnership of NGOs locally, nationally and internationally. Through a concrete proposal of gradual strengthening of the interaction between civil society, the UN, regional organizations and governments, the agenda for peace and conflict prevention is unfolding. On 4 and 5 September 2003 Mr. Paul van Tongeren, executive director of ECCP, came to the United Nations Headquarters to discuss the partnership and its support. For further information and to learn more on how you can participate in this collective effort for peace, please see <http://www.euconflict.org/>, <http://www.conflict-prevention.net/>

UPCOMING EVENTS 2003 * Not to Miss! *

- The Technical Advisory Committee of the **Zayed International Prize for the Environment** is meeting on 6 and 7 of October 2003 in Dubai to discuss nominations. The prize is awarded in the name of H.H Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan for prominent individuals, or group of individuals, for distinguished achievements in the field of environmental development and in the spirit of the great environmentalist after whom the prize is named. It will be awarded on 24 February 2004. For more information, please see www.zayedprize.org The NGO Committee will consider the Zayed International Prize for the Environment for Consultative Status with ECOSOC during its Resumed Session to be held on 15-19 of December 2003.
- **ECOSOC High Level Segment (HLS)** to be held in New York, July 2004: *Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010*. You may wish to read annexed documentation: “Brussels Declaration”, “Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010” and “Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States”. Furthermore, you may also wish to see the website of

the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States at <http://www.un.org/ohrls>. Keep yourselves updated with ECOSOCs website at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/>

- **ECOSOC Coordination Segment** to be held in conjunction with the HLS in New York, July 2004: 1. "Review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations" and 2. "Coordinated and integrated United Nations system approach to promote rural development in developing countries with due consideration to Least Developed Countries, for poverty eradication and sustainable development".
- **CONGO General Assembly 4 / 6** December 2003 and other CONGO meetings: <http://www.ngocongo.org/index2.html>
- **South East European Youth NGOs Forum** announce an event on "Regional Cooperation: Resource and Tool for Youth NGOs efficiency", in the framework of the *Regional Youth Center for Information and Documentation in South East Europe*. Young NGOs as well as youth actors from public institutions in the area are invited to take part in this event to be held in Timisoara, Romania between 20 and 23 October 2003.

USEFUL LINKS

- For AWARD APPLICATION on Gender and ICT Awards, please visit www.genderawards.net/form.shtml or request application with e-mail to awards-apply@apcwomen.org as recommended by our friend Serge Akagah, from Les Amis du Pangolin.
- For information on relevant issues in Latin America and the Caribbean region, please visit the Tradewatch website at <http://www.caribexport.com/tradepolicy/index.php> For more information on the Cancun Meeting, please visit <http://www.carib-export.com/>
- Please visit African Action at <http://www.africaaction.org> for African issues. To be added to its e-journal subscription list, please write to e-journal@africaaction.org

NGOs' CONTRIBUTION

To maintain a dynamic and useful UN-NGO-IRENE Update, we encourage and welcome your contributions. Please submit your comments, remarks and success-stories to share...

to un-ngo-irene@un.org Thank you

We thank all of you who sent kind words and useful contributions following the launch of the UN-NGO-IRENE Update such as:

- The Philanthropy Journal that has written an informative article on **top foundations grants**: <http://www.philanthropyjournal.org> Thank you Milena Tanusheva (Time Foundation) for sharing with us this very interesting information.

CONTACT US

For further information please contact un-ngo-irene@org, Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief, NGO Section at mezoui@un.org and Ms. Najet Karaborni, UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator at karaborni@un.org