



UN-NGO-IRENE UPDATE

Issue no 4 / November 2003

WHAT'S NEW

- Following the launch of the **Questionnaire on NGOs' Success stories in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** and the good response from NGOs in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC, the NGO Section / DESA invites all NGOs in Consultative Status to submit their success stories to share. NGO Success stories will be published in the NGO Section website. We urge you to submit your success stories and we are happy to inform you that the deadline was extended to 7 December 2003. Please visit us at: www.unpan.org/ngo.asp to find the invitation letter and the questionnaire.
- Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the **Church Center for the United Nations** on 10 November 2003, Chief of the NGO Section Ms Hanifa Mezoui spoke on "The Meaning of the Church Center for the United Nations to the United Nations" and congratulated the **United Methodist Church**, in Consultative status since 1996, for its impressive achievements and active support to the Millennium Development Goals' implementation.
- **The International Forum on Rural Development** was organized in Brazil, Brasilia, by **FOCA (Fundação Oásis Cidade Aberta)** in November 2003. It is worth noting that although the NGO obtained consultative status with ECOSOC in May 2003 it already understands how to contribute to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration of the ECOSOC High Level Segment of July 2003 and the Millennium development Goals. With the contribution of Ms Hanifa Mezoui, the outcome of the Forum was a "Brasilia Declaration on Rural Municipality Sustainability", which will be posted in the ECOSOC website at www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc as sample of new paths for connecting rural communities to economic growth.
- A great number of NGOs attended on 20 November 2003, in New York, an **Information Session on the Work of the General Assembly and its Six Main Committees**, sponsored by the **Conference of NGOs (CONGO) in collaboration with the NGO Section / DESA**. A very friendly interactive and fruitful dialogue followed the keynote speech of H.E. Mr. Julian R. Hunte, President of the General Assembly (GA) as well as each of the six eminent panelists' presentations. The NGO perspective added value to the ongoing UN Reform with its call for an enhanced participation of the civil society at all levels including in the General Assembly. For more information on the Reform at the UN, please visit www.un.org/reform/
- As part of the work of the Second Committee of the 58th Session of the General Assembly, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized a **Panel Discussion on Partnerships** on 27 October 2003. Panelists representing various bodies and partners of the United Nations System discussed the vital importance and growing need for strong partnerships based on shared vision, open communication and complimentary competencies especially in an increasingly interconnected world.

COMING SOON

- **Resumed session of the Committee of NGOs 15 - 19 December 2003.** Please visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>
- **NGOs' contribution to the celebrations of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF+10):** After Curitiba, Brazil in May 2003 and Mexico in November 2003, a leading Canadian NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, "**Focus on the Family Canada**" took the initiative to launch on 3rd December 2003 this important event in Canada with the support of the NGO Section of DESA. Ms Najet Karaborni, Senior Interregional Adviser and UN-NGO-IRENE project coordinator will assist Focus on the Family Canada in the preparatory work and conduct of this event to ensure all conditions of its success as she did last May in Brazil to help the World Family Organization.

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION / EXAMPLE *To Follow*

- **World Day for Circles of Compassion** was launched on 2 November 2003 by the **Women's World Summit Foundation**, an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC since 1995. As partner of the **Millionth Circle Movement**, the aim is to engage a dialogue process leading up to the **5th UN World Conference on Women in 2005** (Beijing +10). The World Day for Circles of Compassion calls on men and women of goodwill to invite friends, colleagues and acquaintances to create and nurture circles of compassion to enhance dialogue and cooperation. The rallying points are based on the following twelve critical areas identified in the **Beijing Declaration** and its **Platform for Action (PFA)**:

1. The persistent and increasing burden of **poverty on women**
2. **Unequal access to and inadequate educational opportunities**
3. **Inequalities in health status, and unequal access to and inadequate health-care services**
4. **Violence against women**
5. **Effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women**
6. **Inequality in women's access to and participation in the definition of economic structures and policies and the production process itself**
7. **Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels**
8. **Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women**
9. **Lack of awareness of and commitment to internationally and nationally recognized women's human rights**
10. **Insufficient mobilization of mass media to promote women's positive contribution to society**
11. **Lack of adequate recognition and support for women's contribution to managing natural resources and safeguarding the environment**
12. **The girl-child**

For more information, please visit: <http://www.woman.ch/home.asp>

UPCOMING EVENTS 2003/2004 *Not to Miss !*

- **World Aids Day, 1 December 2003.** UN Secretary General calls for increased collective action to fight the growing disease, by keeping it on top of the political and practical agenda.

- **NGO Forum, 16 March 2004.** A preparatory event for ECOSOC High Level Segment (HLS) of July 2004 in New York will be organized by the NGO Section / DESA in collaboration with CONGO and WFUNA on the HLS 2004 theme "*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*". For information please visit: www.un.org/ohrls, www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/ and www.unpan.org/ngo.asp. Updated information will be posted shortly.
- A **High Level Resumed Session** of the **Third Preparatory Committee (PREPCOM)** for the **World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS)** will take place on 5-6 December 2003 in Geneva. As innovative mechanism working for the bridging of the digital divide and the technological gaps, the **United Nations Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force** shows the path for the UN on strategies for development and cooperation for ICT. It held a preparatory meeting at WIPO headquarters in Geneva discussing the Task Force's contribution to WSIS and its last phase of preparatory meetings. For updated information please visit <http://www.unicttaskforce.org/> and <http://www.itu.int/wsisis/>

USEFUL LINKS

- **CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation** is an international alliance for the foundation, growth and protection of citizen action throughout the world. To subscribe to their bi-monthly e-newsletter **E-CIVICUS** please send an e-mail to news@civicus.org
- A French-speaking e-forum for environmental education led to the launch of a new NGO: **Planét'ERE**. To get more information and necessary documentation on this new NGO, please visit: <http://www.aqpere.qc.ca/consultation.htm>
- **International Civil Service Commission** has launched its newly redesigned website providing easier access to publication and information and giving straight access to common system data, projects and events. Please visit <http://icsc.un.org>
- To reach various African musical successes in French, **Millénium Etudes et Réalisations (MER Inc)** provides us with the link of <http://oceantys.com>

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 very much all those who submitted kind words and contribution to this update.

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For further information on our monthly Update or if you wish to add a friend to our free mailing list, please send an e-mail to un-ngo-irene@org You may as well read all Updates at the UN-NGO-IRENE Website at: www.unpan.org/NGO-updates.asp For any further information please contact Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief, NGO Section at mezoui@un.org and Ms. Najet Karaborni, UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator at karaborni@un.org