



UN-NGO -IRENE UPDATE

Issue no 8 – May 2004

WHAT'S NEW

◆ UN-NGO-IRENE / Mauritania established in Nouakchott on 8th April:

National Coordinator: The Mauritanian “Association pour le Bien-Etre et le Secours de l’Enfant et de la Mère (AMBESEM)”, NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, presided by Mrs. Khadijattou Mint Sheikh Mohamed El Mami was designated National coordinator.

8 Thematic focal points were elected to support the National Coordinator:

1. Group 1 **Poverty and food security:** Ms Mali Mint Sidi, Association for the defense of the women's rights and children.
2. Group 2 **Environment:** M Mohamdi Ould El Hadj Ibrahim, Mauritanian association for the development and the protection of environment
3. Group 3 **Health:** M. Yahya Ould El Eyil, NGO Globe
4. Group 4 **Handicaped and vulnerable people:** M.Lehbous Ould El Id, Mauritanian Federation of national associations of handicaps peoples
5. Group 5 **Education/Elimination of illiteracy:** Ms Moy Mint Haiddi, ANAIF/PIE
6. Group 6 **Women and Gender:** Ms Irabbiha Mint Abdel Wedoud, National Forum for the promotion of women’s rights
7. Group 7 **VIH/Sida and palludism:** M. Ahmedou Ould Hamm Khattar, Assaba Espoir
8. Group 8 **Sustainable Development, Peace and Governance:** Ms Nagia Bint Ahmed, Association for the development and the progress

Development of a strategic action plan for UN-NGO-IRENE/Mauritania based on the expressed needs and the proposed solutions of the workshop participants. This plan will be integrated in the framework of the Effect 3 of the National Programme of Good Governance/Mauritania supported by UNDP and UNDESA.

The national workshop on “strengthening NGO/SCO capacity and launching the UN-NGO Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) in Mauritania” was held in Nouakchott Mauritania from 7 to 8 April 2004 with the support of UNDP/Mauritania and advisory services of the UN-NGO-IRENE project coordinator, NGO Section of UNDESA. It was attended by 77 NGO and Government participants.

◆ French-Speaking African LDCs contribution to the ECOSOC High Level Segment of June 2004.

With the sponsorship of UNDP Mauritania and the support of the NGO Section of DESA, a regional workshop on French-speaking African LDCs NGO/CSO capacity building in resources mobilization enabling environment for poverty eradication and sustainable development (in the context of the implementation of the Action plan in favor of the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010 (Declaration and action plan of Brussels) took place on 12-13 April 2004 in Nouakchott, Mauritania. 85 participants representing 7 African LDCs (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Guinea,

Togo, Senegal, Niger and Mauritania), the media and the United Nations, attended this very successful workshop that came up with a very relevant statement to be submitted to the ECOSOC HLS of June 2004 in New York.

The two workshops were organized by the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Development, the Commissariat of Human Rights, Fight against Poverty and Insertion (CDHLCPI), the World Lutheran Federation (FLM) and the Coordination of the National Programme of Good Governance (PNBG), with the support of UNDP/Mauritania and UNDESA. The UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator, Ms Najet Karaborni provided advice and facilitated the two workshops. For more information please visit: www.unpan.org/NGO.asp

COMING SOON

- 10-28 May: Regular Session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.
- The Committee will consider 59 deferred applications, 100 new applications of organizations applying for consultative status with the ECOSOC and 50 quadrennial reports of the NGOs in consultative status with the ECOSOC.
- 8-12 May: The Foundation for Culture Social Promotion (FPSC) and the Euro-Arab Network for Integration and Development (READI) will organize and conduct in Madrid, Spain, a preparatory regional Meeting to the ECOSOC High Level Segment Meeting of 28-30 June 2004 on “the role of the family in development, poverty eradication and peace-building”
- 20-23 May: The Tunisian Mothers Association (ATM) will organize and conduct in Tunis, Tunisia, an E-Gender Forum and Digital Culture on “the impact of ICT’s on the Advancement of Women and Family’s Rights within Sustainable Development” as NGO/Civil Society contribution to the world Summit on the Information Society, Geneva 2003-Tunis 2005.
- 11-17 June: ABONG a network of Brazilian NGOs is assisting the NGO Section of DESA in organizing The Civil Society Forum in the Anhembi Conference Centre, Sao Paulo, Brazil in the framework of the cooperative work of the NGO Section and the Secretariat of the Group of 77 to celebrate four decades of solidarity for development.

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION / EXAMPLE *To Follow*

The Tunisian Mothers’ Association (TMA) was created in 1992 with the aim of helping and encouraging mothers in assuming their social and civil responsibilities and of showing solidarity with mothers threatened by famine, wars, disasters and extremism. It also assists mothers in rural areas through services such as health, nutrition and outreach activities. The TMA is made up of a national board and regional committees and has specialized commissions on education, health, children, family environment, communication, research, and so on. It investigates the conditions in which mothers, children and families live through a range of national, regional and international activities. At the national level, activities focus on solidarity projects and information dissemination to encourage social mobilization throughout the country to provide immediate services for rural and needy mothers. One important initiative of the TMA is the *Caravan for Peace*, which reaches the community level and demonstrates solidarity

by responding to basic needs for food, education, health, and so on. At the international level, TMA participates in a wide range of events, for example, the UN Women's Conferences. It has also been active in peace efforts in Africa, such as the Liberian elections and in activities carried out by FAS for the Burundian women leadership in the peace process. Examples of its projects include the creation of advisory centres called *SOS Mothers*, the opening of a library in a rural school, the development of an integration centre for neglected children and a social and cultural centre in deprived rural areas.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2004 *Not to Miss!*

- **3 May:** *Special meeting on the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on African countries emerging from conflict:* At its substantive session, the Council will carry out an assessment of lessons learned based on the initial experiences of the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Burundi and Guinea-Bissau. It is proposed to take stock of the work of each Group and to engage in a debate to comprehensively assess this exercise and prospects for future developments.
- **7 May:** *Panel discussion on reform of the United Nations in the economic and social areas:* It is proposed to facilitate an exchange of views on how to strengthen the United Nations in the economic and social areas.
- **10 June:** *Special meeting on the Small Island Developing States (SIDS):* The ECOSOC will hold a round table meeting on the SIDS on the occasion of the ten-year review of the Barbados programme of action.
- **13-18 June:** *The eleventh United Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI) will be held at the Anhembi Conference Centre in Sao Paulo, Brazil.* The conference is UNCTAD's highest governing body and also includes a high-level debate on current issues involving economics and development.
- **22 June:** *Panel on Gender Mainstreaming:* A panel of the Chairpersons of major UN bodies on gender mainstreaming will be organized as a contribution to this important issue at the forthcoming coordination segment of the substantive session.
- **29 June:** *WHO briefing on the 3 by 5 Initiative:* The 3 by 5 Initiative aims to ensure that 3 million eligible people in developing countries will be receiving effective antiretroviral therapy by the end of 2005.
- **19 July:** *Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Functional Commissions:* The discussion will focus on the working methods of the functional commissions, particularly within the context of implementing outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits as mandated in GA resolution 57/270B.

USEFUL LINKS:

- The last edition of CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation, focuses on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. For more information email info@civicus.org or access the web site <http://www.civicus.org>. In order to become a CIVICUS member please contact membership@civicus.org
- "Swaziland now holds the dubious title of having the highest HIV prevalence level in the world. ... Please visit <http://www.africafocus.org>
- U.N. Wire is a daily news service for people interested in world affairs and the activities of the United Nations. Today's full edition is found at <http://www.unwire.org>

- The purpose of the UN University is to *"to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States"* For more information please visit <http://www.ony.unu.edu>

NGOs' CONTRIBUTION ***Submit your contribution***

- Kyung Hee University is seeking to enrich cooperation amongst NGOs and has decided to build a complex for NGOs in Seoul especially to provide major facilities for NGO activities in East Asia. The NGO Complex is expected to serve as an international venue for cooperative interactions between NGOs. Ms Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO Section is invited to participate in the opening ceremony of this very important NGO complex in July 2004.

To maintain a dynamic and useful UN-NGO-IRENE Update, we encourage and welcome your contributions.

Please submit your comments, remarks and information on your success stories to: karaborni@un.org

If your organization wishes to share information with the IRENE community kindly add us to your mailing list. Thank you.

We appreciate the kind words expressed in your responses and for contributing information 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 entitled **"Subscribe"** to Karaborni@un.org. You can 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.