



WHAT'S NEW

◆ **E Gender international Forum, Tunis, Tunisia (21-23 May 2004).**

The UN-NGO-IRENE Coordinator, undertook an advisory mission in May 2004 in Tunis, Tunisia to strengthen NGO capacity and help the leading NGO in general consultative status with ECOSOC, The Tunisian Mothers Association (ATM) to organize and conduct an International E-Gender forum on “the impact of ICT’s on the Advancement of Women and Family Rights within Sustainable development: For a Digital Culture without Exclusion?”. She also presented the closing statement of the chief of the NGO Section in this Forum which represents an outstanding contribution of the NGO/ Civil Society to the preparatory work for the WSIS Geneva 2003 – Tunis 2005. It also contributed to the celebration of the International Days for Family and Disability.

◆ **Statement submitted by ATM to ECOSOC and will be presented at the Substantive Session of the 2004 Coordination Segment of ECOSOC**

Based on the E-Gender Forum recommendations “Declaration of Tunis” adopted by more than 60 personalities and international competences representing the Civil Society Organizations, the United Nations (UNDESA/ NGO Section/ECOSOC and DPADM, the ECA, UNESCO), CONGO, the African Union, the European Union, the league of the Arab States, the Union of the Arab Maghreb (UAM), the Arab International Women’s Forum (AIWF) and World Family Organization (WFO), ATM submitted a statement to the Coordination Segment of ECOSOC of July 2004, New York. The “Declaration of Tunis” will also be used for the preparatory work of the Civil Society Forum of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis, November 2005.

◆ **Latin American and Caribbean Seminar, Partnerships for a New Era, Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), June 1 - 4, 2004 • Santiago, Chile**

Presented by CONGO in collaboration with the NGO Section of DESA and WFUNA under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and UNDESA, the Latin American and Caribbean Seminar (LAC) was conducted by our friend Leslie Wright. This important Seminar started an ongoing process to facilitate dialogue, capacity building, and partnerships between public and private sector organizations towards the establishment of sustainable programs and projects to achieve the MDGs in the region. For more information, please visit the Website: <http://www.lacongo.cl>

◆ **Symposium on “The Role of Women in World Peace & the Role of Men and Boys in Gender Equity”**

The NGO Section took part in the Symposium on “The Role of Women in World Peace & the Role of Men and Boys in Gender Equity” on 24 May 2004 at Lehman

College where Ms. Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2003, presented a key note speech. Her statement was remarkable as all participants know now that freedom is the most precious commodity that a person can possess. We are happy to learn that she is an activist for refugee rights and is both the founder and leader of the Association for Support of Children's Rights in Iran. She will also be a distinguished guest at the **57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action** to be Held in New York in 8-10 September 2004.

- ◆ **Arab International Women's Forum, Third Annual AIWF Conference - Egypt**
The NGO Section brought its contribution to the Third Annual AIWEFA Conference on **Women in the Arab World: Partners in the Community and on the World Stage** was held at the League of Arab States Headquarters, in Cairo, from 6 to 9 June 2004. The International Forum of Arabic Women presents an invaluable opportunity to forge new partnerships between the United Nations and the Civil Society organizations, within the region. This Conference has provided a forum for NGOs working in the field of women's emancipation and has enabled them to voice their progress in achieving goals to eliminate poverty, end conflict and ensure the well-being of people throughout the region.

COMING SOON

- ◆ **ECOSOC HLS Special Events (28-30 June 2004):**
 1. **NGO panel organized by LDC Watch** (28 June 2004, 1:30 pm-2:30 pm)
 2. **Ministerial Roundtable Breakfast on "Strengthening partnership between NGOs, Governments and the United Nations to implement the Millennium Development Goals"** hosted by DESA and the NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC "Zayed International Prize" and "Nour Foundation" (29 June 2004, 8:00 am -9:45 am)
 3. **Panel on the outcome of the 18 March 2004 NGO Forum and the preparatory NGO regional meetings on the theme of the HLS** (30 June 2004, 2:00 pm-3:00 pm)
- ◆ **24 NGO statements** will be presented during the ECOSOC HLS (28-30 June 2004)
- ◆ **The Women PeaceMakers Program** is a program for leaders who want to document, share, and build upon their unique peacemaking stories. The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) is pleased to announce that its 2004 Women PeaceMakers Program is now accepting applications. You will find all the program details as well as the down-loadable application and relevant information for interested Women PeaceMakers, as well as persons interested in assisting in writing and videography on the Website, <http://peace.sandiego.edu>
- ◆ **Indian Committee of Youth Organizations (ICYO)-Youth Information, Int. Conference on Drugs and Young People.** WYF call for abstracts for its forthcoming International Conference on Drugs and Young People Providing an enabling environment for young people to make choices to be held in September in Malaysia. Abstract submissions are invited from scholars, policy/think tank researchers, NGOs and international agencies and others. The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2004. For more information, visit the Website: www.icyo-indian.org

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION / EXAMPLE *To Follow*

- ◆ **The Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI)**, a Macedonian NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC since 2003, that was elected Sub-regional Coordinator of the UN-NGO Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) of Eastern Europe, developed a **pilot project on “Establishment of institutional mechanisms for gender equality at local level”** to established in each locality a public council on gender equality and create a pilot model at local level. It is worth mentioning that as a result of the continuous efforts of ADI and other NGOs in Macedonia, the efforts of many dedicated public figures and politicians as well as those of the Women’s Lobby, the Macedonian Parliament adopted on 26 May 2004, the “Law on the Changes of the Law for Local Elections”, (official gazette 35/2004). The article 18 of this Law envisages that in the forthcoming Local Elections, “30 % of the proposed city councilors should be from different gender, both in the upper and bottom part of the election lists”. This is not the end of the efforts to ensure the gender balance in the local government, but it is indeed a good start and a strong motivation for ADI future work in this field. It is predicted that such achievements will encourage women to participate in a wider extent in the democratic processes and ensure that all their rights are respected. ADI: E-mail: albert@adi.org.mk and website at: <http://www.adi.org.mk>

UPCOMING EVENTS 2004 *Not to Miss!*

- ◆ 28 June-23 July 2004: ECOSOC - Substantive 2004 Session - New York
 - 28-30 June: High Level Segment
 - 1-7 July: Coordination Segment
 - 7-12 July: Operational Activities Segment
 - 12-14 July: Humanitarian Segment
 - 15-22 July: General Segment
 - 23 July: Concluding Session
- ◆ 23 August-3 September 2004: Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities - fourth session - New York
- ◆ 8-10 September 2004: 57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference - New York: Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Actions
- ◆ 10-14 Jan 2005: Barbados +10: International Meeting to Review the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States - Mauritius

USEFUL LINKS:

- ◆ **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>. To sign up at <http://www.unwire.org/subscribe>.
- ◆ **Drive to enroll out-of-school kids:** HRD Minister Arjun Singh on Friday shot off a letter to chief ministers of all states and Union Territories (UTs) urging them to launch mobilization drives as soon as schools reopen after summer vacation to bring out-of-school children into schools. "Indian Committee of Youth Organizations" ICYO-icyo@icyo-india.org

- ◆ The **UN Chronicle** print edition is published by the United Nations Department of Public Information in English and French, and co-published in Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish. It is not an official record; the views expressed in individual articles do not necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. UN Chronicle online at www.un.org/chronicle.

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

- ◆ **Women's Learning Partnership's for right Development and peace** developed a Leadership Training manual, Leading to Choices: A Leadership Training Handbook for Women that is now available in Six Languages (Shamy-Arabic, English, French, Persian, Russian and Swahili) on WLP's Website <http://www.learningpartnership.org>
- ◆ The Bi monthly newsletter No 4 of **All India Women Conference (AIWC)** informed us that its Legal Cell organized a discussion on "Rape Laws in India" and that four Self-Help Groups were created and an Adult Literacy Centre was inaugurated at Tahirpur Leprosy Colony in Shadara, Delhi. To get this newsletter, email to AIWC at: aiwcctc@nda.vsnl.net.in

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