



WHAT'S NEW

◆ **LDC Watch Panel on 28 June 2004.**

On the first day of the ECOSOC High Level Segment (HLS) on “Resources Mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) 2001- 2010”, LDC Watch organized an NGO panel on “Encouraging civil society to work for poverty eradication in LDCs”. More than 80 participants representing NGOs from developed countries, developing countries and LDCs as well as the UN agencies and Member States attended the panel. The meeting had a strong support from the NGO Section of DESA and the Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, Land Locked Developing countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS). The panel agreed on the following main outcomes:

- ◆ Consensus on establishing UN-NGO-IRENE/LDCs so that LDCs can benefit more from this network.
- ◆ Enlarging the scope of NGOs to include the LDC issues in parallel or during General Segment of the coming substantive Sessions of ECOSOC.
- ◆ Setting up by LDC Watch an extended ‘list serve’ including interested NGOs to keep them informed about and involved in the LDC issues.

◆ **Ministerial Roundtable Breakfast on 29 June 2004**

The Ministerial/NGO Roundtable Breakfast “**Strengthening Partnerships between NGOs, governments and the United Nations to implement the Millennium Development Goals**”, hosted by DESA and the NGO in status with ECOSOC “Zayed International Prize for the Environment” and “Nour Foundation” was attended by 53 participants representing 7 Member States, 36 NGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector and Academia, and the United Nations (10 officials). Participants were invited by taking into consideration their respective innovative experiences and good practices to focus upon practical measures, funding mechanisms and processes to effectively strengthen multi-stakeholders partnerships to implement internationally agreed MDGs especially in LDCs. After the friendly and fruitful discussions, the participants agreed on the Extensive Participation of CSOs/NGOs in policy dialogue and operational activities, Strengthening the networking of NGOs/CSOs at different levels and enhancing Capacity Building and Training of NGOs/CSOs by developing a UN Technical cooperation programme for NGOs and effective fundraising for the General Voluntary Trust Fund to reinforce the role of UN-NGO-IRENE for NGOs and their target groups especially in LDCs.

◆ **NGO Panel on 30 June 2004**

A panel on the outcome of 18 March 2004 NGO/Civil Society Forum and the preparatory regional and national UN-NGO-IRENE Meetings was held in the ECOSOC Chamber at the United Nations. More than 80 participants representing NGOs, Member States and the UN took part in the panel. Mr. Anwarul Chowdhary, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of OHRLLS opened the meeting. He underlined the NGOs' active participation in enriching the debate in this year's HLS of ECOSOC and the NGOs' interaction with the UN system and governments. He also stressed that in order to meet the MDGs by 2015, there is a need for the formation of special caucus on LDC issues such as informal NGO regional network among the LDCs. Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO Section/DESA moderated the meeting. Ms Najet Karaborni, UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator presented the tremendous preparatory work and outcomes accomplished by NGO coalitions and NGOs with the support of the UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section in Mauritania, Brazil, India, Spain, Canada, Dubai, Japan and New York. Several other presentations were made by panelists including Dr. M Al Alwar Meshgan, Representative of Zayed International Prize for Environment, Ms Khadijattou Cheikh Mohamed El Mami, President of AMBSEM and UN-NGO-IRENE/Mauritania Coordinator, Mr. Hamadi Ould Meimou, Commissioner of Human Rights, Fight Against Poverty and Integration in Mauritania, Ms. Cecile Molinier, UNDP Resident Representative and Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Mauritania, and Mr. Nick Arkle, Hope for the Nations and UN-NGO-IRENE /Canada Coordinator. Mr. Lawrence Correa of Vivat International presented on behalf of LDC Watch the ways to move forward. The meeting was concluded with the announcement of launching of the UN-NGO-IRENE for LDCs.

◆ **NGO Statement to the High-Level Segment**

18 NGO Statements (3 NGO Coalitions and 15 NGOs) were presented to the HLS based on their field experiences and recommendations and proposals of regional and national meetings that they conducted with support of the NGO Section through its advisory services.

◆ **NGO Participation in High Level Segment and other Roundtables**

Over 150 participants representing NGOs and NGO coalitions participated in the HLS from 28-30 June as well as in its special events including the HLS Roundtable Breakfasts, Panels and the brainstorming sessions on how NGOs can contribute towards the implementation of MDGs through partnership building especially in the LDCs.

◆ **Coordination Segment of ECOSOC**

From 1-7 July (morning), the Coordination Segment was devoted to two themes:

(i) "Coordinated and integrated United Nations system approach to promote rural development in developing countries, with due consideration to LDCs, for poverty eradication and sustainable development ECOSOC Decision 2003/287" (ii) "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 system". During the Coordination Segment, NGOs participated in several panel discussions and roundtables held to explore and deepen these two

themes of the Coordination Segment of the ECOSOC. 3 leading NGOs made statements on the first theme related to gender issues and 1 NGO made statement on the second theme which is related to rural development in developing countries.

COMING SOON

- ◆ “Capacity Building Meeting to Launch UN-NGO-IRENE/Jamaica” will be held in Cartagena, Jamaica on 18 September 2004.
- ◆ The Women Peace Makers Program at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) will organize a program for leaders who want to document, share, and build upon their unique peacemaking stories from 25 September to 19 November 2004 in San Diego, California. Selected peacemakers will receive roundtrip airfare, housing, and a small stipend to cover expenses for the eight-week residence.
- ◆ International Conference on Drugs and Young People “Providing an enabling environment for young people to make choices” will be held from 27-30 September 2004 in Melaka, Malaysia.

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION / EXAMPLE *To Follow*

The team leading the United Nations Public Private Alliance for Rural Development (H.E. Zina Andrianarivelo-Razafy, Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the UN, Ms. Lila Andrianantoandro, Counselor at the Mission, and David Stillman, (Senior Officer in DESA) traveled from January-March 2004 to Madagascar, the first pilot country, to introduce the new program. The UN Alliance began in 2003 as an outgrowth of ECOSOC’s encouragement for alliances and partnerships for rural development. It emphasizes pro-poor business, stimulation of entrepreneurial capacity-building and encouragement of investments, commerce and related support in-country and internationally. It serves as a facilitator and matchmaker, not a funding body. Priorities in Madagascar are agribusiness, rural credit, school nutrition, computer technology and other related areas. The UN Alliance works with all stakeholders---UN system, businesses, business associations, NGOs, governments and others, including rural communities themselves. “Alliance-Madagascar,” a sister organization, has been established as a local NGO. For more information, please visit www.un.org/esa/coordination/Alliance.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2004 *Not to Miss!*

- ◆ 19-21 August 2004: WFUNA (The World Federation of United Nations Associations) together with its youth network would convene a Model United Nations Conference for university students in Asia-Pacific region.
- ◆ 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 January 2005: Barbados +10: International Meeting to Review the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States - Mauritius

USEFUL LINKS:

- ◆ **The Women Peace Makers Program**—<http://peace.sandiego.edu>
- ◆ **International Committee of Youth Organizations**-- icyo@icyo-indi.org
- ◆ **WFUNA:** www.unachina.org, **email:** secretariat@unachina.org

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

CEFRE, an NGO in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC took a commendable initiative in assisting DESA in carrying out a complex preparatory process of the TCPR 2004 (Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review on Operational Activities) involving the analysis of international cooperation activities carried out at any level by the UN system. Following the September 2003 cooperation agreement between DESA and CERFE, this NGO has assisted DESA particularly in consultation of the UN system's mail organizations based outside the American Continent, consultation via email questionnaire of certain NGOs with general and special consultative status with ECOSOC, participation in 2 of the 6 country-missions undertaken in January-February 2004 and cooperation in drafting final report in March-April 2004.

The questionnaire that was distributed to 69 NGOs (34 in General and 35 in Special consultative status) got the response rate of 14.5% for NGOs as oppose to 11% in the case of Member States. As per the NGOs' responses:

- ◆ They were in broad agreement regarding the success of some of the UN operational activities including advocacy initiatives, direct and research support.
- ◆ They highlighted the added value of the UN operational activities by referring to the UN system as a whole and not to individual elements.
- ◆ They stressed the need for greater coordination between the UN entities at both central and national level.

In general, the NGOs highlighted the importance of enhancing partnership and cooperation between NGOs and the UN even in complex operations.

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 UN-NGO-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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