

# NEWSLETTER

June 2016

## I. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CoNGO

### CoNGO Regional Committee in Asia/Pacific (RCAP)

Several years ago CoNGO began planning to establish a CoNGO Regional Committee in Asia/Pacific. Despite CoNGO's habitual financial constraints, the strong interest has been maintained, and the slow and detailed work CoNGO has been doing is going to bear fruit! Here is a summary, and a look ahead.

After the creation "on paper" of the RCAP in February 2009, and the designation of an interim Steering Committee, CoNGO was able in May 2012 to have an initial meeting of that Committee in Bangkok, at the time of the UNESCAP Annual Council Session. Siam University, whose President is also the Thai representative of one of CoNGO's members, gave outstanding support.

Since those most constructive and promising discussions and meetings in May 2012, CoNGO has only been able to give restricted attention to the planning for a future RCAP. This is because our financial resources have remained precariously limited.

For CoNGO, a major change occurred in 2015 with the arrival "on staff" of a very competent volunteer Associate, Mme Donna Reitano, who has worked assiduously with our successive interns from Kyung Hee University, Seoul (Seoji Kim, Sukyum Kim and Sang Koo Chun) to get the RCAP into takeoff mode. We have created a data base of 400+ Asia/Pacific NGO and CSO contacts. We have analysed ESCAP programmes and its standing committees, and matched them with CoNGO's own Substantive Committees, in the context of their correlation with one or more of the 17 SDGs. This is enabling us to identify the themes that would best be the focus of the future RCAP, leading in due course to RCAP thematic committees that could function year-round.

CoNGO was able to attend part of the 2016 UNESCAP Session in May 2016 in order to test our ideas with those present. To achieve that, Siam University and its President are providing generous and timely support, for which CoNGO is deeply grateful. The full RCAP launch will take place at the time of the 2017 ESCAP Session.

CoNGO will of course need funds for the initial management and coordination of the project, for an action of this magnitude cannot rely solely on volunteer effort. One of CoNGO's VicePresidents, the Pan Pacific SouthEast Asian Wommen's Association (PPSEAWA) is currently in the lead on the Steering Committee, and its President, Teresa Hintzke attended the Bangkok meetings. All the initiatives in Bangkok were supported and furthered by another CoNGO volunteer Associate, Mme Sheila Bordier, a former CoNGO Executive Officer now mainly living in Asia.

It is with conviction and enthusiasm that I look forward to a new and defining stage in the progress towards the creation of the CoNGO RCAP.

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

This issue of the CoNGO E-NEWSLETTER has again been competently put together by our current Intern from Kyung Hee University, Sang Koo Chun, to whom I address our appreciation. He will return to Korea at the end of June, having completed a three-month internship in the CoNGO Geneva Office, and I wish him the very best in his future career. CR

## **II. UN NEWS & UPCOMING UN EVENTS**

### **UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

#### **Recap on the UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)**

UN General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, which created the Human Rights Council, mandated the Council to “undertake a universal periodic review, based on objective and reliable information, of the fulfilment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments in a manner which ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all States; the review shall be a cooperative mechanism, based on an interactive dialogue, with the full involvement of the country concerned and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs; such a mechanism shall complement and not duplicate the work of treaty bodies.”

Subsequently, the Universal Periodic Review mechanism was established through the adoption by the Council of its “institution building package” HRC resolution 5/1 on 18 June 2007, one year after its first meeting. Among the elements of this package was the new Universal Periodic Review mechanism, which aims to ensure that all United Nations Member States, starting with the members of the Council, have their records examined in order to improve human rights conditions worldwide. Furthermore, the Council decided that these reviews would be conducted in one working group composed of the 47 members of the Council.

The UPR Working Group consequently held its inaugural session in April 2008 for the first group of States, the order for which was decided through the drawing of lots. With the holding of this first session the first cycle took off through which all 193 United Nations Member States have had their human rights records reviewed over a four-year period (April 2008 to October 2011). Thus far, all States scheduled to participate in their second cycle UPR have done so. The second cycle is scheduled to conclude in November 2016.

Per Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 adopted on 25 March 2011 and decision 17/119 pertaining to the review of the Council, the second and subsequent cycles of the UPR

should focus on, inter alia, the implementation of the accepted recommendations and the developments of the human rights situation in the State under review. This resolution and decision also established that the periodicity of the review for the second and subsequent cycles will be four and a half years, instead of four, and thus 42 States would be reviewed per year during three sessions of the UPR Working Group. Moreover, the order of reviews established for the first cycle was to be maintained. The calendar of State reviews for the second cycle can be found at the following link:

[http://www2.ohchr.org/SPdocs/UPR/UPR-FullCycleCalendar\\_2nd.doc](http://www2.ohchr.org/SPdocs/UPR/UPR-FullCycleCalendar_2nd.doc)

### **UPR Reporting and Objectives**

In accordance with the Council's "institution building package", and as reinforced by the outcome of the Council's review adopted in March 2011, the three documents on which State reviews should be based are information prepared by the State concerned, which could be presented either orally or in writing; information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and Special Procedures, to be compiled in a report by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and information provided by other relevant stakeholders to the UPR including non governmental organizations, national human rights institutions, human rights defenders, academic institutions and research institutes, regional organizations, as well as civil society representatives, also to be summarized by OHCHR in a separate document.

Per the adopted institution building package, the objectives of the Universal Periodic Review are : the improvement of the human rights situation on the ground; fulfilment of the State's human rights obligations and commitments and assessment of positive developments and challenges faced by the State; the enhancement of the State's capacity and of technical assistance, in consultation with, and with the consent of, the State concerned; the sharing of best practice among States and other stakeholders; support for cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights; and, the encouragement of full cooperation and engagement with the Council, other human rights bodies and OHCHR.

Additional information on the Universal Periodic Review mechanism can be located at the Universal Periodic Review webpage on the OHCHR website:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>

### **UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT Updated participation figures as of 30 April 2016**

137 companies and 52 non-business stakeholders joined the Global Compact in April 2016.

56 companies were expelled for failing to communicate on progress.

The largest companies (by employee number) to join during April were: Marks & Spencer PLC (United Kingdom), Thomson Reuters (USA), MRV Engenharia e Participacoes (Brazil), Softtek (Mexico), Julius Berger Nigeria Plc (Nigeria), The VELUX Group (Denmark), Kakira Sugar Limited Uganda, Veritas Technologies LLC (USA), Segula Technologies (France), Unilever Sanayi ve Ticaret Turk A.S. (Turkey).

Cumulative total Figures as of 30 April

Business participants: 8,693

Non-business participants: 5,099

Communications On Progress submitted: 37,848

Expelled business participants: 6,272

More information: <http://www.unglobalcompact.org/>

## **THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT**

The UN Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption:

### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

1. Business should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
2. Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

### **LABOUR**

3. Business should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
4. The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
5. The effective abolition of child labour; and
6. The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

7. Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental changes;
8. Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
9. Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

### **ANTI-CORRUPTION**

10. Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

## **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**

The 9th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the CRPD will be held from 14-16 June 2016 at UN Headquarters in New York. The overarching theme of this year's session is "Implementing the 2030 development agenda for all persons with disabilities: Leaving no one

behind". The subthemes are: i) Eliminating poverty and inequality for all persons with disabilities; ii) Promoting the rights of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities; iii) Enhancing accessibility to information and technology and inclusive development; and iv) Celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the CRPD. This year's session will include a general debate, three thematic round table discussions.

Information: <http://bit.ly/crpdosp9>

### **UNESCO & ECCAR launch 'Cities Welcoming Refugees' GMPA assisting**

In May 2016 UNESCO launched the ECCAR (European Coalition of Cities Against Racism) - joint initiative "WELCOMING CITIES FOR REFUGEES" See news article at <http://en.unesco.org/news/patrick-taran-migration-common-myths-and-reality>

The initiative to support cities across Europe in PROMOTING INCLUSION AND PROTECTING RIGHTS includes a survey to FACILITATE SHARING OF CITY POLICIES AND PRACTICES on refugees and migrants, compiling a GOOD PRACTICES DATA BASE, preparing a FRAMEWORK GUIDANCE DOCUMENT, and a EUROPEAN CITIES LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE to take place in Athens in November 2016

GMPA (Global Migration Policy Associates) is assisting ECCAR and UNESCO with research and advisory services.

Information: [www.globalmigrationpolicy.org](http://www.globalmigrationpolicy.org)

## **III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT SUMMER SCHOOL 2016 27 JUNE – 1 JULY 2016, National University of Ireland, GALWAY, IRELAND**

The annual International Criminal Court Summer School at the Irish Centre for Human Rights is the premier summer school specializing on the International Criminal Court. The summer school allows participants the opportunity to attend a series of intensive lectures over five days. The lectures are given by leading academics on the subject as well as by legal professionals working at the International Criminal Court. The interactive and simulating course is particularly suited to postgraduate students, legal professionals, scholars, and NGO workers. Participants are provided with a detailed working knowledge of the establishment of the Court, its structures and operations, and the applicable law. Lectures also speak to related issues in international criminal law including: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, the crime of aggression, jurisdiction, fair trial rights, and the rules of procedure.

This year's ICC Summer School will include a special session on Victims At the International Criminal Court.

Leader: Professor William Schabas (Irish Centre for Human Rights/Middlesex University);

Registration fee is €450. The registration fee includes all course materials, all lunches and refreshments, a social activity and a closing dinner.

To register and for more information regarding the 2016 ICC SummerSchool, please visit the website [1], or Facebook [2] or Twitter [3].

Links:

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[1] <http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=464>

[2] <https://www.facebook.com/internationalcriminalcourts Summerschool/?fref=ts>

[3] <https://twitter.com/icc Summerschool>

## **IV. PUBLICATIONS**

"Health and human rights in a changing world", Michael A. Grodin (ed.),  
Routledge, New York, 2013, 647 pp

"Humanitarian Action and the Responsibility to Protect", Alex. J.  
Bellamy (ed.), in "Global Responsibility to Protect", Vol. 6, No. 2,  
2014, pp 117-263

"Enforced disappearance: Challenges to accountability under  
International Law", in "Journal of International Criminal Justice", Vol.  
12, No. 4, 2014, pp 731-808

"Protection of refugees and displaced persons in the Asia-Pacific  
Region", Angus Francis (ed.), Ashgate, Farnham, 2013, 252 pp

"Aid, NGOs and the realities of women's lives: A perfect storm", Tina  
Wallace (ed.), Practical Action, Rugby, 2013, 240 pp

"Reconceptualizing gender, reinscribing racial-sexual boundaries in  
International security: The case of UN Security Council Resolution 1325  
on 'Women, Peace and Security' ", Nicola Pratt, in "International  
Studies Quarterly", Vol. 57, No. 4, 2014, pp 772-783

"LE PROCES DES DROITS DE L'HOMME - Généalogie du scepticisme démocratique"  
Justine Lacroix, Jean-Yves Pranchère, Université Libre de Bruxelles.  
Editeur Seuil, collection La couleur des idées. pp344

## V. CALENDAR

### NOTICE:

1. The CoNGO Calendar is a service to the NGO constituency to enable each individual organization to determine, in good time, its possible or desired involvement in the event mentioned, in accordance with the organization's own statutory or programmatic focus.
2. The conferences and meetings listed in the CoNGO Calendar are not under the convening or invitational or access responsibility of CoNGO. They are listed for the information of readers, and any queries about any event should be addressed solely to the organizer of the event, not to CoNGO.

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

## 2016

### July

**July 11-20:** UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the Sustainable Development Goals (UN.HQ, New York)  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

**July 17-22:** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: UNCTAD 14 (Nairobi, Kenya)  
<http://unctad.org/>

**July 25-27:** Third session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III (Surabaya, Indonesia)  
<https://www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/preparatory-committee>

**July 31-August 4:** Vienna International Model United Nations (VIMUN), UN office at Vienna  
Further information at: <http://www.vimun.org>  
Registration: <http://afa.at/vimun/vimunregistration.htm>

### August

**August 2:** 70th Anniversary of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)

### September

**September 1-10:** International Union for the Conservation of Nature, (IUCN), World Conservation Congress 2016 (Hawaii, USA)  
[www.incnworldconservationcongress.org](http://www.incnworldconservationcongress.org)

**September 30-October 3:** Global Campaign on Military Spending: International Peace Bureau World Congress – “War, Money, Transformation: Disarmament for Development!” (Berlin, Germany)

<http://demilitarize.org/get-involved/conference-2016/>

## October

**October 3-5:** Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): 2016 Social Forum: "Promotion and Full and Equal Enjoyment of All Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms by All Persons with Disabilities" (Palais des Nations, Geneva)  
<http://www.ohchr.org>

**October 11-13:** International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), 3<sup>rd</sup> International Summit of Cooperatives: "Cooperatives: Power to Act" (Quebec City, Canada)  
[www.intlsummit.coop](http://www.intlsummit.coop)

**October 17-20:** Habitat III Conference: UN Commission on Human Settlements (Quito, Ecuador)  
<http://www.habitat3.org>

**October 17-21:** CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, 8<sup>th</sup> Session (COP8-UNTOC), UNOV, Vienna

**October 23-27:** Inter-Parliamentary Union, 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly (Geneva, Switzerland)  
<http://www.ipu.org/>

## November

**November 7-16:** UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 22) (Marrakesh, Morocco)  
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

**November 27-December 1:** International Peace Research Association (IPRA), 26<sup>th</sup> General Conference (Freetown, Sierra Leone)  
"Agenda for Peace and Development"  
[www.iprapeace.org](http://www.iprapeace.org)

**November 28-December 1:** OECD/UNDP: Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation – Second High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership, Kenya

## 2017

**June 12-16:** World Summit on the Information Society-WSIS Forum 2017 (Geneva, Switzerland)

**2018** CoNGO's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary !

**February:** 26<sup>th</sup> CoNGO General Assembly  
(Precise dates and site to be confirmed)

UN General Assembly: UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament  
<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/action-alerts/high-level-nuclear-disarmament-conference.html>

UN-Habitat: 9<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum (WUF9) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)  
<http://unhabitat.org/kuala-lumpur-to-host-world-urban-forum-in-2018/>

**2019**

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Labour Organization (ILO) <http://www.ilo.org/century/>