

NEWSLETTER

September 2016

I. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CoNGO

The United Nations Department of Public Information (UN.DPI) together with the Executive Committee of DPI-accredited NGOs (NGO-DPI) held the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, from 30 May to 1 June 2016. The theme was "Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together"

The Conference was opened by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, who among many very pertinent remarks deplored the increasing restrictions placed on civil society by governments in many countries. The Secretary-General also commented that the innumerable achievements and positive outreach of NGOs around the world made him feel that the acronym NGO might very well stand for "Networks of Global Opportunities" !

These two apposite remarks by the Secretary-General were very close to the considerations in the statement delivered to the Conference by the President of CoNGO at the Closing Plenary. It is reproduced here.

"The UN.DPI/NGO 2016 Conference has spent three days of debates and interactions focussing on "Education for Global Citizenship". We are all aware of the complexities of establishing and implementing meaningful principles, goals targets and indicators for "Global Citizenship", a concept that is simultaneously universal and local.

CoNGO has for 68 years been an interface between NGOs/CSOs and the entire United Nations System, and we look forward to promoting this Conference's outcome document, the Gyeongju Action Plan, particularly in so far as it reflects young people's aspirations and responsibility. The Conference has rightly fully related Global Citizenship principles and programmes to the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to help ensure that their implementation gets off to a sound start.

It is striking how many SDG concepts and terminologies invoke attributes of global citizenship. For example, climate change demands to be combatted in a global context (Goal 13); achieving sustainable production and consumption surely requires education for global responsibility (Goal 12); conserving oceans, seas and marine resources needs an educated global response, as does the protection of terrestrial ecosystems and human settlements (Goals 14, 15 and 11); intensive global education is necessary to overcome the patriarchal attitudes that so persistently impede gender equality (Goal 5); and educated global citizens will be the first to commit themselves and their communities to promoting well-being for all at all ages (Goal 3).

These examples of linkages between global citizenship and the SDGs illustrate the crucial importance of open and confident cooperation between governments and civil society, if we are to achieve lasting results for the people of this planet. In many parts of the United Nations System, open consultation between governments and civil society is the watchword and the normal practice, contributing to building confidence and security in programming and interactions. Education for global citizenship also benefits from open and innovative dialogue and partnerships between governments and civil society.

But regrettably, dialogue and partnerships are ceasing to be the pattern in too many parts of the world. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, stated this bluntly and courageously in his Opening Statement to this Conference. Over the past ten or more years there has been a clear and deeply disturbing trend in a number of countries towards an increasingly restricted space for civil society, as well as outright threats and intimidation of organizations and individuals - notably those who have exercised their rights as citizens to speak up on human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. In these matters, international politics and national politics are not separate containers but rather are communicating vessels. It is a socially perturbing phenomenon when governments introduce legislation to actively limit the operation or financing of civil society organizations, when harassing registration or reporting requirements are imposed, when measures are adopted that restrict or prohibit CSOs and NGOs from accessing funds from outside the country, when governmental spokesmen make derogatory - indeed sometimes inflammatory - public statements about NGOs and CSOs that are carrying out legitimate civic responsibilities of advocating for just social, environmental, educational and economic policies.

In short, Education for Global Citizenship cannot take root and expand if civil society is denied the exercise of its proper citizenship roles at the national level, making it less capable and prepared to be the citizen's voice at the international level. NGOs constrained by retrograde legislation at home will be less equipped and less present internationally to make their indispensable contribution to global programmes and governance.

Building confidence and security at the international level requires that at the national level governments demonstrate confidence in citizens and their associations, and guarantee them the security inherent in respecting fundamental freedoms. Global Citizenship requires no less.

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

Note: This issue of the CoNGO E-NEWSLETTER has been put together by the new intern in the CoNGO Office in Geneva, Yujin Jo from Kyung Hee University (KHU), Seoul. I thank her for so successfully launching her three-month internship, in the best tradition of the successive interns generously provided to us by KHU over many years. CR

II. CoNGO Substantive Committees

NEW CoNGO CSW SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEES IN THE REGIONS

Three of the new Substantive CSW Committees have websites up and running.

Please check:

NGO.CSW Asia-Pacific: <http://apngocsw.org/>

NGO.CSW Africa: <http://www.ngocswafrica.org>

NGO.CSW Latin America-Caribbean: <http://ngocswlac.org>

CoNGO CSW SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEE (Vienna)

The Vienna NGO CSW Committee has the following new officers:

Chair: Martina Gredler (zahnaerztin@yahoo.com)

First Vice Chair: Evelyn Dürmayer

Second Vice Chair: Ilona Graenitz

Secretary: Laurie Richardson

Committee website: www.ngocswvienna.org

III. CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Murder in Honduras of another Indigenous Women Leader

Lesbia Janeth Urquía Urquía – member of COPINH – murdered July 5, 2016

A previous CoNGO E-NEWSLETTER reported the assassination of Berta Cáceres, co-founder of COPINH (The Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras).

Less than two weeks later, on March 15 an associate of Berta Cáceres and an active member of COPINH was also assassinated. Nelson García, 38 years old, was killed as he was returning to his home after attending the scene of a violent eviction process affecting the community of Río Chiquito.

On July 5, 2016, just four months after the murder of Berta Cáceres, LESBIA JANETH URQUÍA URQUÍA left her home with her bicycle as she regularly did but failed to return. A search by friends and family ended near a garbage dump where the lifeless body of Janeth was found with obvious head wounds from what police have described as a machete blow. Janeth Urquía was a known activist of the same peasant and indigenous group COPINH. Honduras is a country with an extremely high rate of femicides which was described by the W.H.O. as reaching “epidemic” proportions.

COPINH has denounced the murder of Janeth Urquía as another “political femicide”. Janeth Urquía was active in opposition to the construction of another hydroelectric dam on the

Chinacla River, which flows through traditional Lenca territory and is essential to the livelihood of peasant agrarian communities in the municipality of San José, La Paz.

AD HOC GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL NGOs ACCREDITED TO FAO (AHGINGOS)

The Rome-based Representatives of INGOs accredited to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and other UN System Agencies in Rome have created AHGINGOS to foster and channel INGO input to the deliberation of these agencies. Collaborative advocacy statements are made to certain intergovernmental governing bodies.

More information: www.ahgingos.org

(Please see in particular the Statement of May 3, 2016 to the 30th FAO Regional Conference for Europe and Central Asia.)

UNION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (UIA)

Meetings statistics

According to the 57th edition (published June 2016) of the UIA International Meetings Statistics Report (<http://www.uia.org/publications/meetings-stats>) the five most popular cities for international association meetings in 2015 were: Brussels (6.1% of the world's association meetings in 2015), Singapore (5.9%), Seoul (4.3%), Vienna (2.6%), and Paris (2.5%).

IV. UN NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION SERVICE IN GENEVA

Alessandra Vellucci is from June 1, 2016 the new Director of the United Nations Information Service in Geneva.

Ms. Vellucci had been serving as Chief of the Intergovernmental Support Service, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva, since November 2014.

A United Nations staff member since 1991, Ms Vellucci served from December 2010 until November 2014 as Chief of the Press and External Relations Section, United Nations Information Service, Geneva. She also served as deputy spokesperson of the United Nations Office at Geneva, and provided media-related support to ECOSOC, the Conference on Disarmament, the Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Committees.

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The 2016-2017(72nd) President of UN ECOSOC is H.E. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava. Ambassador Shava is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations in New York.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

UNCTAD 14 (Nairobi, July 2016) reinforced the UNCTAD mandate on women's economic empowerment: "ADVOCATING INCLUSIVE AND GENDER-SENSITIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON A GLOBAL LEVEL"

A key message from UNCTAD 14 was the need to break gender segmentation in agricultural production and rural labour markets; the need to provide women with adequate access to productive resources; the need for capacity building attuned to women's specificities; the need for a change in mindset.

UNCTAD 14 concluded with a consensus document, the "Nairobi Maafikiano", which includes several references to women's economic empowerment and gender equality as preconditions for inclusive development. Moreover, it calls on UNCTAD to "REINFORCE ITS WORK ON THE LINKS BETWEEN GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT AND TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, AND SUPPORT MEMBER STATES IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTIONS THAT SUPPORT WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, ECONOMIC SECURITY AND RIGHTS, AND ENHANCE THEIR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES." (PARA 58(Z))."

Further information: the UNCTAD Trade, Gender and Development Unit: GENDER@UNCTAD.ORG

UN ROADMAP TO END HARMFUL FISHING SUBSIDIES

At UNCTAD 14, some 90 countries backed an UNCTAD - FAO - UNEP initiative, signing up to a roadmap towards ending harmful fishing subsidies.

Fishing subsidies are estimated to be as high as \$35 billion worldwide, of which \$20 billion directly contribute to overfishing. According to FAO data, the share of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels continues to decline, falling from 90 percent under sustainable levels in 1974 to 69 percent in 2013.

Linked to this precipitous decline in fish stocks, the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL No. 14 pledges to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, sea, and marine resources. Target 14.6 addresses the harmful subsidies directly, and has re-energised efforts to reduce subsidies on fisheries.

The roadmap includes a four-point plan:

- Require countries to provide information on what subsidies they are providing.
- Prohibit those subsidies which contribute to overfishing and illegal fishing.
- Introduce new policy tools to deter the introduction of new harmful subsidies.
- Provide special and differential treatment to developing countries.

Fisheries are a key source of protein and livelihoods for millions in coastal communities, who are powerless by themselves to tackle the heavily subsidized industrial fishing boats and the overfishing that these involve.

UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director Erik Solheim said: "The time for short-term thinking is over if we are to secure human health and prosperity for centuries to come. After all, if there are no fish left in the sea, there will be no fishing industry."

The joint UNCTAD - FAO - UNEP roadmap also has support from 4 international and regional governmental organisations, including the Commonwealth and African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group (ACP). It also has support from 10 global civil society organizations, including WWF, Oceania, CUTS International and International Institute of Sustainable Development.

UNITED NATIONS GOODWILL AMBASSADOR FOR THE DIGNITY OF SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Ms Nadia Murad Basee Taha has been appointed to this post. Ms Murad, a 23 year-old Yazidi woman who survived trafficking at the hands of ISIL, was rounded up with fellow Yazidis in Iraq in 2014, and witnessed ISIL fighters shooting men and boys in cold blood. She was subject to grave abuses at the hands of ISIL fighters, and bought and sold various times.

A relentless advocate for victims, Ms. Murad's appointment as UN Goodwill Ambassador will mark the first time that a survivor of atrocities is given this distinction. During her Ambassadorship, she will focus on advocacy initiatives and raising awareness around the plight of millions of victims of trafficking in persons, especially refugees, women, and girls.

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR)

UNITAR offers online and face-to-face courses on Multilateral Diplomacy. These courses are targeted to diplomats and government officials who are involved in inter-governmental negotiations, and professionals who are working in an international environment.

UNITAR offers fellowships and discounted fees for group bookings. Please contact UNITAR for further assistance.

E-Learning courses

- **Public Diplomacy in a Multipolar World**
17 October - 13 November 2016

- This course aims to help participants understand what public diplomacy is, how its practice has evolved over time and how the current challenges are being addressed. It will also examine a range of tools & techniques available to public diplomacy practitioners.

Registration: <https://www.unitar.org/event/public-diplomacy-multipolar-world-1>

- **Cosmopolitan Communication**
: Connecting across Diplomats, Business Leaders and Civil Society Actors
7 November - 4 December 2016

- The general objective of this e-learning course is to reinforce the knowledge on the processes of communication, to enhance cultural awareness and understand the differences in communication among various cultures.

Registration: <https://www.unitar.org/event/cosmopolitan-communication-connecting-across-diplomats-business-leaders-and-civil-society-actors-4>
- **Introduction to Water Diplomacy**
7 November - 4 December 2016

- The purpose of this course will first be to raise awareness on the current state of freshwater resources worldwide and the need for adequate diplomatic solutions to stimulate cooperation around the way the resource is managed. It will provide knowledge resources, circumstantial experiences, and a cadre of tools to water-relevant stakeholders so as to enhance their ability to assess, prevent, and respond to the tensions arising from situations of water scarcity and mismanagement worldwide.

Registration: <https://www.unitar.org/event/introduction-water-diplomacy-2>

For information: <http://www.unitar.org/>
Contact: <mailto:mdp-elearning@unitar.org>

V. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

IOM has been accepted by the UN General Assembly as a "Related Organization" of the United Nations. IOM will become a member of the UN Chief Executives Board. IOM was established in 1951 to resettle people uprooted by the Second World War, the original name being the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe. After being the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration for many years, the current name was adopted in 1989.

IOM has 165 member states, and currently employs 9,000 staff in 150 countries, with an annual budget of USD 1.4 billion (1998 figures: 1,100 staff, budget of USD 242 million). In addition to migration management, IOM has increasingly become an expert body in providing humanitarian assistance to migrants caught up in conflicts and natural disasters, and advocating for their rights.

Since 2008 the IOM Director General has been former US Ambassador William Lacy Swing.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Engagement with "Non-State Actors"

A new "Framework for Engagement with Non-State Actors" was approved by the World Health Assembly in May 2016. The Framework addresses participation, resources, advocacy, technical collaboration and conflict of interest.

VI. Books and Articles of Interest

The UN Association-USA: A Little Known History of Advocacy and Action

Little known outside of a small community of insiders, the United States Association-USA has had an impact on both the UN and the US-UN relationship far greater than its size would suggest. James Wurst explores that impact as he traces the sometimes tortuous history of the UNA-USA from its earliest days to present.

- CONTENTS: Introduction. A Citizen's Movement for Founding the United Nations, 1938-1943. "We the Peoples," 1944-1946. The American Association for the United Nations (AAUN), 1947-1964. AAUN Internationalism and Domestic Political Disputes, 1947-1964. Eleanor Roosevelt Stumps for the AAUN and the United Nations, 1953-1962 – *D.Leimbach*. Citizen Advocacy: The UNA-USA and the US Government Since the 1970s. The Decline of Popular Support for the UN: UNA-USA in the 1970s. The UNA-USA Parallel Studies Program and Track II Talks, 1968-1992. Post-Cold War Openings: The UNA-USA Multilateral Studies, 1984-2000. Track II Diplomacy: The US-Iran Dialogue 2001-2009. The UNA in the New Millennium, 1989-2010. Leadership Dynamics Across the Decades. UNA's National Constituency: Members and Allies- *J.Laurenti*. Advocating for Human Rights and International Justice. Engaging the Private Sector. Reaching Out: The UNA-USA and Public Education – *D.Garr.Vista* and *The InterDependent: UNA-USA Publications With Influence- D.Leimbach*. Looking to the Future.

August 2016/ca. 300 pages. HC USD 68.50, Paperback USD 26.50.

Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder, Colorado, USA www.rienner.com

International Organizations: The politics and processes of global governance

Third Edition, 2015, 600 pages, Paperback USD 37.50.

Authors: Karns Margaret, Mingst Karen, Stiles Kendall.

Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder, Colorado, USA www.rienner.com

The Politics of Global Governance: International Organizations in an interdependent world

Fifth Edition, 2015, 450 pages, Paperback USD 27.50.

Editors: Frederking Brian, Diehl Paul.

Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder, Colorado, USA www.rienner.com

Human Rights in Armed Conflict: Law, Practice, Policy

Author: Gerd Oberleitner
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2015

The Typhoon Haiyan response

Authors: David Carden et al.
in "Humanitarian Exchange: The Magazine of the Humanitarian Practice Network, No. 63, 2015, 42 pp

The concept of the employer

Author: Jeremias Prassl
Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2015, xxvii + 2549 pp.
ISBN 978-0-19-873553-3

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT EMBLEMS

This new brochure (05.2016, pp 8) is designed to help address misuses of the Red Cross/Red Crescent emblems by explaining their purpose, why it is important to protect and ensure respect for them, and who is authorized to display them.

Information: International Committee of the Red Cross: <https://www.icrc.org>
To order: shop@icrc.org (Publication reference: 4247)

VII. 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

German Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

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 Alliana (ICA), 3rd International Summit of Cooperatives: "Cooperatives: Power to Act" (Quebec City, Canada)
www.intlsummit.coop

October 16-17: 6th Global Forum on Health Promotion (CHARLOTTETOWN, Prince Edward Island, CANADA)
info@thequaich.pe.ca

NB: The Global Forum on Health Promotion is an initiative of Geneva's Alliance for Health Promotion, an NGO in official relations with the World Health Organization. Five previous Global Forums have been held in Geneva since 2011. This year marks the first time the event has been held outside of Europe, and the occasion coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion. The 6th Global Forum on Health Promotion is hosted and co-organized by the Government of Prince Edward Island in partnership with the Alliance for Health Promotion, The Quaich Inc. (Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island) and Groupe entreprises en santé (Montreal, Québec).

Central to the 6th Global Forum's programming are the five principles of the Ottawa Charter [1], which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The 6th Global Forum will focus on how health promotion activities can support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals over the next 14 years, revealing how communities and organizations around the world are creating change for local, national and global impact.

The Quaich
25 Bolger Drive, Charlottetown, PE, Canada Charlottetown, PE C1A 7T2
Canada

Links: [1] <http://thequaich.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=929184ffe039985425f66cbb7&id=f79a826e94&e=c10cc32816>

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

October 17-21: UN OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME- Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 8th Session (UNOV, Vienna)
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/CTOC-COP.html>

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

October 25-27: Rehabilitation International, 23rd World Congress (Edinburgh, UK)
<http://www.riglobal.org>

November

November 1-18: International Narcotics Control Board, 117th Session (UNOV, Vienna)
<https://www.incb.org/>

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

November 21-22: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law:
"Widening the Democratic Space: the role of youth in public decision-making"
(Palais des Nations, Geneva)
Information: civilsociety@ohchr.org

November 24-25: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Forum on Minority Issues:
"Minorities in situations of humanitarian crises"
(Palais des Nations, Geneva)
Information: civilsociety@ohchr.org

November 27-December 1: International Peace Research Association (IPRA), 26th General Conference, "Agenda for Peace and Development" (Freetown, Sierra Leone)
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

January

January 27: Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN), Annual Conference (UN.HQ, New York)
<http://www.ctaun.org/>

February

February 1-10: UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
55th Session. Priority theme: "Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve

sustainable development for all" (UN.HQ, New York)
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/csod55.html>

March

March 13-24: UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
61st Session. Priority theme: "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work" (UN.HQ, New York)
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017>

May

May 22-26: UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Cancun, Mexico)
<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform>

June

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

November

November 8-10: World Federation of the Deaf, Third International Conference (Budapest, Hungary)
<http://wfdbudapest2017.com>
golob@congressline.hu

2018

CoNGO's 70th Anniversary!

February/March

February/March: 26th 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: 9th World Urban Forum (WUF9) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
<http://unhabitat.org/kuala-lumpur-to-host-world-urban-forum-in-2018/>

2019

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