

NEWSLETTER

March 2015

I. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CoNGO

HONOURING THE UN ON ITS 70th ANNIVERSARY

Shared Ideals, Shared Values, Shared Futures.....

UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Following the creation of the United Nations organization in 1945, and the granting of Consultative Status with ECOSOC to the first batches of NGOs, CoNGO was created in 1948 “to foster cooperation and dialogue among all NGOs and with groupings of NGOs related to the UN System” and to “strengthen the relationship between NGOs and the United Nations, including the contributions which NGOs can make to promoting the principles, purposes, and effectiveness of the UN and its related agencies and programmes”. Moreover, the early visionaries also mandated CoNGO “to mobilize public opinion in support of the aims and principles of the United Nations”.

Throughout 2015, the 70th Anniversary of the UN offers an opportunity to examine these ongoing relationships. The relationships are vital, challenging, sometimes fraught, always evolving, and increasingly essential to continue moving steadily yet ambitiously towards a world of peace, equity and social justice, a world where poverty is eradicated and the rule of law prevails. To achieve these goals, as a former UN Secretary General said: “For the UN, partnership with civil society is not an option, it is a necessity”.

In 2015 CoNGO is therefore organizing or “code-sharing” three commemorative and analytical Events (in New York, Geneva and Vienna) to honour the UN on its 70th Anniversary, and to highlight the past, present and future of the ideals and values that the UN shares with the broader civil society. The Events would have a common framework, as follows:

HONOURING THE UN ON ITS 70th ANNIVERSARY

Shared Ideals, Shared Values, Shared Futures.....

KEYNOTE ADDRESS by top UN “political figure”

PANEL of heads of three major UN entities, and three top civil society leaders

SOME CONCLUSIONS and pointers for the future

It would be inevitable - and right - to hope for an outcome that would foster augmented UN/Civil Society cooperation in relation to major challenges of this year and next: Financing for Development, Sustainable Development Goals, Post-2015 Agenda, Climate Change, HABITAT III, World Humanitarian Summit, 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly.....

The first Commemorative Event takes place in New York, on May 7, 2015 from 10:00 to 13:00. The Keynote Address will be given by H. E. Martin Sajdik, President of UN. ECOSOC.

More news shortly!

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO
president@ngocongo.org

II. CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT - March 2015

STATEMENT BY THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM (WILPF) ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mia Gandenberger, WILPF, said their annual statement to the Conference on Disarmament was the only time of year any civil society voice was allowed inside the Conference Chamber. This year may be the last time, said Ms. Gandenberger. The Conference had not done any substantive work for 17 years, because a very small minority of States blocked the adoption or implementation of a programme of work. Yet many other members refused to allow a change in working methods, rules of procedure, enlargement of membership, or engagement of civil society. Ms. Gandenberger spoke about the indignities in being the only civil society organisation that still paid attention to the Conference; difficulties that civil society did not experience in any other disarmament forums, such as the United Nations First Committee, meetings of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons or meetings of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

WILPF was delighted when Ambassador Lomónaco of Mexico tabled a draft decision to increase civil society access to and engagement with the Conference; and disappointed by the discussions on that draft decision. The sexist and degrading remark about "topless ladies throwing bottles of mayonnaise" aside, the level of disrespect to civil society and disconnection from the outside world demonstrated by the debate over this proposal was astounding, said Ms. Gandenberger.

Many Member States had repeatedly expressed their appreciation for WILPF's work, but at the moment that it mattered, many put process over progress. Member States that prided themselves to be open, democratic societies said they needed more time, had some more questions, wanted some changes, and in the end could not agree to what was smaller than the

smallest common denominator. Consequently WILPF decided that it was finally time to cease its engagement with the Conference on Disarmament.

The Conference's debate over civil society engagement was important in timing, but not the key reason that WILPF decided to cease engagement, said Ms. Gandenberger. Rather, it was because the Conference had firmly established that it operated in a vacuum; that it was disconnected from the outside world; and that it had lost perspective of the bigger picture of human suffering and global injustice. Maintaining the structures that reinforced deadlock had become more important than fulfilling the objective for which it was created — negotiating disarmament treaties. WILPF could no longer invest effort into such a body. Instead it would continue its work elsewhere. The previous day WILPF had held an International Women's Day seminar focusing on gender and disarmament, a subject receiving increased attention. Weapons were considered to be men's business. Framing women as weak and in need of protection as "innocent civilians" continued to enable their exclusion from authoritative social and political roles, and weakened the effectiveness of those processes. Ms. Gandenberger referred to Security Council resolution 1325 on women in peace and security, and landmark provisions within the Arms Trade Treaty on the prevention of arms transfers that could facilitate gender-based violence. Much remained to be done in disarmament and demilitarization and such work was worthy of the efforts of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

COMMENTS BY GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS ON THE ABOVE

Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of 21, said the Group continued to support the strengthening of the Conference's interaction with civil society and welcomed the convening of the Conference on Disarmament Civil Society Forum on 19 March 2015, hosted by its Acting Secretary-General.

Algeria welcomed the statement by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and sincerely congratulated its female colleagues on the occasion of International Women's Day. Women as sisters could provide an extremely valuable contribution to the cause of disarmament and international peace and security, in accordance with the various United Nations resolutions.

The United Kingdom said it did not wish Ms. Gandenberger's statement on behalf of the WILPF to go undignified by an absence of comment on its substance. The United Kingdom recognized that the world had moved on since the establishment of the Conference on Disarmament and that vibrant civil society comment on the proceedings of any forum was a good indicator of its relevance. It was therefore with sadness that the United Kingdom listened to the messages within Ms. Gandenberger's statement. The United Kingdom wished to put on record again that the United Kingdom opposed on process grounds alone the draft decision put forward under the Mexican presidency covering civil society engagement. The United Kingdom would welcome a discussion on that issue by the proposed working group on working methods, and hoped that proposal, along with the proposals to re-establish a working group on a programme of work, and the schedule of activities, could promptly be agreed as a single package.

New Zealand took the floor in response to the statement delivered by Ms. Gandenberger on behalf of WILPF: New Zealand said as today may be the last time it could engage directly in the

Conference on Disarmament with that valued member of civil society, it wished to put on record how much it deeply appreciated the Women's League's work; sharing what happened in the Conference on Disarmament with the outside world, providing commentary explaining its arcane procedures and translating for the real world the consequences of the Conference's ongoing failure to fulfil its negotiating mandate. The Women's League would be missed, and New Zealand looked forward to continuing its engagement pursuing a world without nuclear weapons in more progressive fora. It was surely a wake-up call when even the indefatigable Women's League tired of the Conference on Disarmament and left. The situation brought to mind a famous proverb of the indigenous peoples of New Zealand "What is the most important thing – it is people, it is people, it is people". New Zealand said it was regrettable although not surprising that the efforts of some in the Conference to exclude people from its deliberations led the one group that was still interested in its work to lose hope, not only in its ability but in its willingness to change for the better. With the departure of the last civil society representative paying regular attention to the Conference on Disarmament we must all strive to ensure we do not forget on whose behalf we were here and for whose benefit we must get back to work.

Russia said such a pleasant day as International Women's Day should not be used as a pretext for controversy at the Conference on Disarmament, which touched on quite important agenda items. The Conference dealt with disarmament issues, said Russia, asking what was the relationship between disarmament and gender-related violence, which could be carried out without any weapons at all. Let us keep to the agreed agenda and get down to business, said Russia.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Vaanchig Purevdori, President of the Conference on Disarmament (Mongolia), said as today was the last plenary meeting under the Mongolian Presidency, he would summarize events. The Conference on Disarmament had held substantive discussions on the four core issues on its agenda. The President was hopeful that those, and other ideas explored, would contribute to its revitalization. The Conference had a successful High Level Segment, where the Conference heard from many dignitaries. That demonstrated the importance that many States attached to the Conference on Disarmament, and highlighted the urgency that it restart substantive work. He said he had consulted extensively on the three proposals relating to the re-establishment of an informal working group to produce a programme of work, the establishment of another informal working group to review the methods of work of the Conference, and a schedule of activities for the 2015 Session. He regretted that his Presidency was ending without a conclusion on these proposals but hoped that the incoming Presidency of Morocco would continue from where he had left off.

GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY POLICY (GCSP)

The GCSP's International Training Course in Security Policy (ITC) becomes the Leadership in International Security Course (LISC).

Throughout the past 29 years, the ITC has developed a global reputation for learning and expertise on current and future security challenges. Harnessing these strengths, the GCSP announces its regeneration as the Leadership in International Security Course (LISC) for its 30th edition.

Contact: info@gcsp.ch

Discover the new LISC:

<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=22564719&msgid=64762&act=MBKL&c=1487763&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gcsp.ch%2FLeadership-Crisis-Conflict-Management%2FProgramme-News%2FThe-International-Training-Course-in-Security-Policy-ITC-becomes-the-Leadership-in-International-Security-Course-LISC>

Transforming Global Governance: Addressing the Double Democratic Deficit

(CIVICUS Side-Event at the UN Human Rights Council) – Note by Sinmyung Park, CoNGO Intern

Speakers

- Maina Kiai, UN Special Rapporteur on rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
- Mandeep Tiwana, CIVICUS, Head of Policy and Research via skype
- Jane Connors, OHCHR, Director, Research and Right to Development
- Neil Buhne, Director, UNDP, Geneva

Moderator

- Renate Bloem, CIVICUS, Head of Geneva Office

Discussion

The discussion was mainly focused on how international governance and multilateral institutions can successfully address human rights concerns, and are valued by civil society as arenas in which issues of civil society rights can be raised. All the panelists agreed that large international institutions are often capable of dealing with large problems; however, they also agreed that those big institutions are lacking people-oriented solutions. Below are two recommendations suggested by the CIVICUS State of Civil Society Report 2014; I found these recommendations have strong connections with the panelists' suggestions that need to be taken to ensure greater citizen participation within multilateral organizations.

1. International organizations must prioritize making the environment for civil society more enabling – at the local, national, regional, and global levels. Efforts should be made from the local to the global levels to ensure practical realization of civil society rights enshrined in various international treaties and agreements.
2. CSOs that are concerned with issues of social justice and civic change should make the influencing of global governance institutions a programmatic priority. This necessitates enhancing civil society's knowledge and understanding of the impact of global decision-making on their local conditions.

Remarks

After listening to many Human Rights experts, I came to think the biggest problem is that global governance remains disconnected from the people whose lives it impacts. We live in a world in which there are multiple global crises, showing us that global governance is not properly working at this moment. I kept thinking and asking myself, "What can we do, as a NGO, to enable intergovernmental organizations and civil society to functionally engage in greater citizen participation in decision making?" I do not have a good answer for this question; however, in this regard, I believe that both intergovernmental organizations and CSOs need to work together in order to transcend the interests of the private sector and national governments. L'union fait la force.

Footnote by Cyril Ritchie

The above comments by CoNGO's intern, Sinmyung Park, can be directly linked to my introductory message in the present Newsletter. The Commemorative Events that CoNGO will be organizing to honour the UN's 70th Anniversary will surely contribute to greater functional cooperation between civil society and the intergovernmental organizations of the entire UN family. One facet of this is indeed "greater citizen participation in decision making".

Valbreda International becomes Cigna

Valbreda International is a long-established very large insurance company extensively used by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, notably in the fields of health, travel and emergencies.

After an association agreement with Cigna in 2010, from February 2015 the company is exclusively known as Cigna.

For more Information: www.vanbredabecomescigna.com and www.cignahealthbenefits.com

White Paper on Peacebuilding (Extracts)

White Paper on Peacebuilding constitutes the outcome of a 12-month collaborative, multi-stakeholder process coordinated by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). It was developed with the objective of broadening the discussion around how countries themselves can most effectively move towards sustainable peace.

The White Paper is divided into four parts. The first gathers perspectives on the global context of the peacebuilding field. The second points to key challenges to peacebuilding practice, while part three highlights key opportunities. The fourth part presents a reflection of future perspectives for building peace.

The Global Context of the Peacebuilding Field

1. **Many regions face transforming security landscapes.** Key elements driving these transformations include chronic political instability, persistent social volatility and conflict, the proliferation of non-state armed groups and transnational actors, disputes over land and natural resources, weak state systems, and recurring cycles of violent competition over the state or markets.
2. **The characteristics of violent conflict have changed.** The majority of violent deaths occur outside those major conflict zones that are usually represented in the global media. New threats to states and societies are developing, including through the proliferation of precision strike capabilities, cyber instruments, and bioterror weaponry.
3. **State capacities and functions are challenged in many regions of the world.** Most of the regional background papers and many interviewees agreed that some states have limited capacity to provide people with security, welfare and representation.

Challenges for peacebuilding practice

1. **Peacebuilding directed by external interveners is no longer a politically and practically viable approach.** The regional background papers point to an increasing self-confidence amongst many state and societal actors in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. This is evidenced by their willingness to challenge the often paternalistic approaches of outsiders attempting to control peacebuilding dynamic on the ground. These observations contribute to a growing evidence that shows a disconnection between peacebuilding at the grass-roots level and action by international organizations and bilateral donors.
2. **The absence of a shared perception of what constitutes ‘peacebuilding practice’ remains a challenge.** The regional background papers and many interviewees emphasize that peacebuilding can mean something different to different policy communities. While perceptions are never identical in any specific community, there is a tendency by state representatives and officials from international organizations to associate peacebuilding practice with the UN, its peacebuilding architecture or operational departments. But at the field level, many people simply get on with doing what is needed to build peace and do not worry about definitions.
3. **Peacebuilding practice does not sufficiently address the role of actors and institutions based in developed economies in shaping conflict and peace dynamics.** Several

interviewees observed that international actors tend to localize responsibility for violent conflict, while local actors often point to the behaviour of actors based in developed countries – in terms of policy choices and consumption patterns – as key factors for conflict dynamics.

Opportunities for peacebuilding practice

1. **Peacebuilding is a field that constantly adapts to change and strives for creative solution.** The ability to adapt within the difficult circumstances of peacebuilding processes and to find novel ways of tackling new and old problems is a tremendous resource of the peacebuilding community. In peacebuilding contexts, adaptability and creativity frequently translates into the fact that peacebuilding professionals are taking considerable personal risks on a daily basis.
2. **There is considerable potential for regional organizations to engage in peacebuilding.** Interviews revealed that cooperation among regional organizations and with the UN have improved in recent years and have been facilitated by, for instance, staff exchanges, informal debriefs, or a series of inter-institutional arrangements. Some background papers suggest that placing peacebuilding coordination within the regions would be preferable to a centralized peacebuilding architecture in New York.
3. **There is an ever growing pool of technical expertise.** Overall, there is increasing technical knowledge on different theoretical and practical aspects of peacebuilding. There is now a set of international actors that provide technical assistance to a whole array of local governmental or non-governmental actors. According to various local peacebuilding professionals interviewed for the White Paper, additional work is needed to connect the technical expertise of local actors to international policy making to ensure that flows of expertise go both ways – from international to local and from local to international levels. Many international organizations continue to favour international over local expertise and analyses of macro over micro dynamics.

Future perspectives for building peace

1. **Strengthening peacebuilding as prevention of violent conflict by building on local expertise.** The prevention of violent conflict is a major challenge for local and international actors as underscored by recent crises in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, North and Central Africa as well as by continuing trends of chronic violence in Central and South America. The White Paper highlights the importance of local actors and approaches for peacebuilding. Such local expertise holds much potential for the prevention of violent conflict.
2. **Transforming peacebuilding support.** Assistance to building peace is about supporting local actors building peace by lending expertise and advice to locally-shaped and guided plans and processes. Peacebuilding is not a ‘mission’ or a ‘programme’. More work is needed in order to understand the workings of accompaniment, especially with respect to differentiated roles and responsibilities.
3. **Finding new funding models for peacebuilding.** Many peacebuilding professionals interviewed for this White Paper suggested that the model of funding peacebuilding through external donors will become increasingly unsustainable. The reliance on outside support can also reduce the long-term prospects of peacebuilding, prevention

and violence reduction efforts, as it tends to reduce the ownership of these efforts by local actors.

Contact: info@gpplatform.ch

To download the full text of White Paper on Peacebuilding and related documents, please visit <http://www.gpplatform.ch/white-papers/whitepapers>

FORUM INTERNATIONAL DE MONTREAL/MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL FORUM (FIM)

After 16 years of operations, FIM – Forum for Democratic Global Governance has closed its Montreal Secretariat due to lack of funds. In the coming months FIM's board of directors will oversee an interim assessment period to decide FIM's future. During this time FIM's key programme, Building Bridges, will be operated from its affiliate, South Asia Partnership – Pakistan (SAP-PK).

The decision to close the Montreal Secretariat came about following concerted efforts to build and diversify FIM's funding base and to establish a southern FIM headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria. In the end, new funds were not secured in time for continued operations of FIM's Montreal Secretariat and escalating security and risk factors in Nigeria have necessitated suspension of activities to open the FIM Abuja office.

FIM has been a pioneer in its mission to bring the missing voices of the global south to the decision-making arenas of global multilateralism – to democratize global governance. Keeping FIM's unique niche alive remains important to civil society and to a growing movement for participatory global governance. How to accomplish this will be FIM's focus in the coming months.

For further information as it becomes available, please consult our website: WWW.FIMFORUM.ORG

Footnote from Cyril Ritchie: CoNGO has cooperated often with FIM during the latter's entire sixteen years of existence, sharing common concerns for the promotion of democratic global governance. It is strongly to be hoped and desired that means will be found to "keep FIM's unique niche alive".

III. UN NEWS & UPCOMING UN EVENTS

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA (UNOG): INTERNATIONAL GENEVA PERCEPTION CHANGE PROJECT (PCP)

The UN Office at Geneva launched this PCP in 2014, aiming to change the perception of International Geneva (La Genève Internationale) by putting a spotlight on the worldwide relevance and impact of the immense variety of activities carried out every day of the year by the multitude of international actors in this "world city". These include the entities of the UN System, international NGOs (which have some 3,000 representatives accredited to UNOG), the international media, academic and research institutions and think tanks.

The PCP focusses on activities of all these international institutions in the fields of peace, rights and well-being, encouraging the various actors to see beyond their silos, enhance synergies, and reach wider publics (themes frequently evoked by successive Presidents of CoNGO in speeches and writings of recent years).

The PCP is innovative, for example encouraging interaction with the public by having Geneva marathon runners train on the UN campus; and publishing a Book of Recipes for Peace, Rights and Well-being that contains not only real food-recipes but recipes for institutional change and for collaborative frameworks. Among the innovative material produced by the PCP is the vividly striking "media reporting iceberg" reproduced below.



Contact: perceptionchange@unog.ch

For more information:

<http://acuns.org/research-on-the-impact-of-the-work-of-geneva-based-organizations>

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

WHO Executive Board - January 2015

Revising the proposed Framework for Engagement with non-state actors

The WHO Executive Board debated a proposed new "Framework for engagement with non-state actors". This was the latest proposal in an overall reform effort at the WHO that has been under way for at least two years.

The new Framework has four classifications of non-state actors (NGOs, private sector, philanthropies, academia) but includes revisions on how to treat international business associations as a separate category and on how to determine whether an NGO will be treated as a private sector entity for at least some purposes. More work is needed, said many speakers at the Board meeting, to identify the criteria for making such a determination.

Another related issue is how one might draw the line for engagement or non-engagement with particular industries in the private sector, above and beyond the current red line for the tobacco and arms industries. The final decision provides for the convening of an open-ended intergovernmental meeting from 30 March to 1 April 2015, to act on specific proposals for amendments. Three days will be devoted to revising this text for transmission to the 68th World Health Assembly in May 2015.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

Women's representation in parliaments

Since 1995, when the Beijing Platform for Action on women's empowerment was adopted, the global average of women in parliament has increased from 11.3 per cent to 22.1 per cent. Women MPs have gained ground in nearly 90 per cent of the 174 countries for which data was available in 1995-2015.

IPU's Report "Women in Parliament: 20 years in review" points to several markers of success. The number of single or lower houses of parliament where women occupy more than 30 per cent of the seats increased from five to 42, while those with more than 40 per cent have jumped from one to 13. There are now also four chambers with more than 50 per cent women MPs and one in Rwanda, with more than 60 per cent.

The successes are also more regionally spread out. In 1995, Europe dominated the top 10 spots in rankings of women in parliament. In 2015, four of the top 10 countries are from Sub-Saharan Africa, while the Americas and Europe are each represented by three countries.

Only Finland, the Seychelles and Sweden appear in the top 10 for both 1995 and 2015, while Rwanda, Andorra and Bolivia have made the biggest leaps forward in women's representation during the 20 years with respective increases of 59.5, 46.4 and 42.3 percentage points. The number of male-only parliaments has also dropped from 10 to five.

Electoral quotas in more than 120 countries have underpinned this success, according to IPU. However, a significant brake on progress in 2014 could be an indicator that the fast track impact of quotas has reached its peak and other measures investing in women's political empowerment are needed to complement quotas.

While the number of women MPs barely shifted in 2014, there was better news on women parliamentary leaders. The percentage of women Speakers of Parliament in the world rose by one percentage point in the same period to 15.8 per cent.

World Bank Group's World Development Report 2015

MIND, SOCIETY, AND BEHAVIOR

The report provides a framework to help development practitioners and governments apply these insights to development policy, and argues that this would ultimately help them more readily tackle such challenge as increasing productivity, breaking the cycle of poverty from one generation to the next, and acting on climate change.

To download the individual chapters, the full report, or to view related videos, please go to: www.worldbank.org/wdr2015

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

2015

70th Anniversary of the United Nations Organization (1945-2015)

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48149#.U9oWsvl_vTo

150th Anniversary of the International Telecommunications Union (1865-2015)

<http://www.itu.int/en/council/150committee/Pages/default.aspx>

World Summit on Social Development – Copenhagen+20

<http://undesadspd.org/CalendarofEvents.aspx>

UN International Year of Soils

<http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/en/>

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

<http://www.osce.org/pc/121276>

March

March 21: World Down Syndrome Day

<http://www.un.org/en/events/downsyndromeday/>

April

April 2: World Autism Awareness Day

<https://www.un.org/en/events/autismday>

April 4-15: Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (Geneva)

<http://www.cooperationinternationalegeneve.ch/meetings-conferences-parties-basel-rotterdam-and-stockholm-conventions>

April 12-17: World Water Forum: 7th World Water Forum – "Water for Our Future" (Daegu and Gyeongbuk, South Korea)
<http://worldwaterforum7.org/en>

April 12-19: UNODC: 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice – "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider UN agenda ..." (Doha, Qatar)
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime-congress/13-crime-congress.html>

April 13: Global Day of Action on Military Spending
<http://demilitarize.org/global-day-action-military-spending/>

April 18: Kota Center: Conference on the Kota World Center for Women (New York)
www.kotaproject.org

April 23: International Girls in ICT Day – Expand horizons, change attitudes
<http://www.girlsinict.org>

April 27-29: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: WILPF 2015 Conference – "Women's Power to Stop War" (The Hague, Netherlands)
<https://wilpfact.wordpress.com/category/wilpf-history/>

May

May 19-22: World Education Forum 2015 (WEF) (Incheon, South Korea)
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/education-for-all/world-education-forum-2015/>

May 25-29: ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP: WSIS Forum 2015 – "Innovating Together: Enabling ICTs for Sustainable Development" (Geneva)
<http://www.itu.int/wsis/implementation/2015/forum/ocp/>

June

June 7-9: Organization of American States (OAS): General Assembly (Haiti)
<http://www.oas.org/en/default.asp>

June 9-11: UN enable: 8th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN Headquarters, New York)
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1535>

June 22-24: Deutsche Welle (DW): Global Media Forum – "Media and foreign policy in the digital age" (Bonn, Germany)
www.dw-gmf.de

July

July 13-16: UN: 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/third-conference-ffd/index.htm>

July 27-30: Asian Population Association: 3rd International Conference (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
www.asianpa.org

July 28-31: TRANSED: 14th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (Lisbon, Portugal)
<http://www.transed2015.com>

September

September 7-11: 14th World Forestry Conference (Durban, South Africa)
WFC XIV – Info@fao.org

2016

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

May

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: UN World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, Turkey)
<http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/>

May 23-27: UN Environment Assembly: Second Meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi, Kenya)
<http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/second-meeting-of-the-un-environment-assembly/>

August

August 20-26: International Federation of University Women (IFUW): 32nd Triennial Conference "Empowering women and girls through lifelong, quality education and training up to the highest levels."

September

September 23-25: Global Campaign on Military Spending: World Congress – "War, Money, Transformation: Disarmament for Development!" (Berlin, Germany)
<http://demilitarize.org/get-involved/conference-2016/>

October

UN Commission on Human Settlements: HABITAT III (Quito, Ecuador)
<http://unhabitat.org/habitat-iii/>

UNODC: Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the World Drug Problem – “Achieving the 2019 Goals – A better Tomorrow for the World’s Youth”
www.ungass2016.org

2018

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/lang--ja/index.htm>