

NEWSLETTER

April 2016

I. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CoNGO

It is one of the joys of being President of CoNGO (there are some others, and of course some less joyous experiences !) to see the expressions of the dynamism of CoNGO members, and of many CoNGO Substantive Committees. This current year provides several examples of mobilization around the issues dealt with in several Substantive Committee areas. I list some below, without of course being exhaustive.

A. We all know the sterling work carried out by the three long-standing CoNGO Substantive Committees on the Status of Women: NGO.CSW Geneva, NGO.CSW New York, NGO.CSW Vienna. During the session last month in New York of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UN.CSW), a long-planned evolution reached its climax with the creation of four new CoNGO Substantive CSW Committees: NGO.CSW Latin America-Caribbean, NGO.CSW Africa, NGO.CSW Asia-Pacific, NGO.CSW Arab States-MENA.

To take advantage of the presence in and around the UN.CSW of representatives of women's NGOs from all parts of the world, the CoNGO Board last year gave its endorsement to a process - initially emerging from work undertaken by NGO.CSW New York - for the establishment of the four new Committees based in the respective regions. This came to fruition on March 16, 2016, when the initiators and interim leaders from the four regions presented to a packed - and enthusiastic - audience their reports on the process thus far, the challenges, the opportunities and the potential scope of these new CoNGO Committees. The March 16 meeting was convened by and under the aegis of the President of CoNGO, as requested by the Board, and enabled discussion of strategies, policies and administrative steps.

In conformity with the CoNGO Rules, final approval will undoubtedly be given by the CoNGO Board at its next meeting at the end of April, and the four new Substantive Committees will then be fully up and running ! I thank Soon-Young Yoon, former Chair of NGO.CSW New York, and currently First Vice President of CoNGO, who has been a motor behind all these dynamic developments.

B. A second example is the regeneration these past months of the CoNGO New York Substantive Committee on Education, now reemerging with the expanded title of NGO Committee on Education, Learning and Literacy. The former CoNGO Substantive Committee on Education had effectively lapsed, and in the recent three years an ad-hoc (non-CoNGO-based) New York NGO Committee on Education had stepped into the void, working energetically with relevant UN processes and bringing in many professional educators.

Following "town-hall" meetings in New York under CoNGO auspices in December 2015 and March 2016, and also a review meeting of the interim (non-CoNGO) NGO Committee on

Education to take stock of progress and potentialities, there will be a consolidated meeting on April 7, 2016 to put together the new CoNGO Substantive Committee on Education, Learning and Literacy, and undertake the steps needed to elect Committee leadership and to plan activities as from September/October 2016. I thank Liberato Bautista, UN Representative of GBCS-UMC and Immediate Past President of CoNGO, who has been a motor behind all these equally dynamic developments.

C. The third example concerns the imminent launching of a new CoNGO Substantive Committee, namely the NGO Committee on Rare Diseases (New York). Following an initiative at the 2014 CoNGO General Assembly by a then-new CoNGO member, the Agrenska Foundation, Sweden, later joined by the Europe-wide Rare Diseases network EURORDIS. In this case too, a "town-hall" exploratory and informational meeting was convened by CoNGO in New York in October 2015, followed by extensive By-Laws drafting and public relations processes undertaken by the initiators. With the CoNGO statutory requirement of a minimum of 20 membership signatories already met, and with outreach by the initiators to interested government missions at UN.HQ, it is now planned to have the formal launch session in New York in November 2016. I thank Anders Olauson, President of the Agrenska Foundation, who has been the motor behind these decidedly dynamic developments.

D. A last example (for today...) concerns a single CoNGO member, illustrative of so many others.

The Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Bangladesh has been awarded the Arab Gulf Fund (AGFUND) International Prize (NGO Category: "Alleviation of unemployment among youth"). The award of USD 150,000 is for the DAM's "Technical and Vocational Education and Training" carried out for the last two decades, benefitting some 20,700 persons, of whom over 18,000 have found suitable jobs. A true example of dynamic grassroots work in the South, and an encouragement to all NGOs to persist and persist and persist. We may not all receive cash rewards for our often low-key work, but we know we are making a difference in striving for human development. Be inspired by all the above !

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

Footnote: This is the last CoNGO E-NEWSLETTER organized by our intern from Kyung Hee University, Su Kyum Kim, who returns to Korea this week after three most productive months in the CoNGO Geneva Office. I thank her most warmly for her devotion, competence and pleasant disposition, and I wish her all the very best for her future career. We are deeply indebted to Kyung Hee University for regularly providing CoNGO with quality interns. CR

III. CoNGO SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEES

CHANGE OF A SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEE'S WEB AND MAILING ADDRESS

The NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief (New York) has a new web address: www.unforb.org

The Committee's mailing address is:
NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief
866 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

CHANGE OF A SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEE'S NAME

The New York NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples has updated its name.

From February 2016 the new name is: NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Committee Chairperson remains Roberto Borrero (International Indian Treaty Council/United Confederation of Taino People). The Vice Chairperson is Pamela Kraft (Tribal Link Foundation).

III. CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE (BWA) PRODUCES DIRECTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

BWA, a CoNGO member founded in 1905, has produced a directory of human rights organizations around the world. Listing more than 700 organizations, it includes groups that operate globally, others that are regionally focused and some that do human and justice work in specific countries.

"It is our desire that Baptists and other Christian groups will draw on these resources to address human rights problems and concerns in their particular locale," the BWA declares. The directory "can be used as a source of information for those who seek advocacy and referral services for human rights causes."

However, the BWA issues a disclaimer. "This directory cannot be interpreted as a recommendation or endorsement of any particular group or organization. Each Baptist group or organization needs to do its own due diligence as to whether a group, as a potential partner, is compatible with its sense of call or mission."

The directory (51 pages) is available on the BWA website at www.bwanet.org

(BWA is a fellowship of 232 conventions and unions in 121 countries and territories comprising 40million members in 177,000 churches.)

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION: 2015 Report on women in parliament

An increase in the number of women Speakers of Parliament during 2015 and some regional successes were among the few highlights in what proved to be yet another disappointing year for women's participation in parliament, says the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Women in Parliament 2015: the Year in Review showed that for the second year in a row, the

number of women Members of Parliament (MPs) across the world rose by a worryingly low 0.5 percentage point. Women now account for 22.6 per cent of the world's MPs.

Although this figure is an all-time high and represents the continued upward trend for women in parliament, the rate of progress in 2015 was another setback from the 1.5 percentage point increase witnessed in 2013. That leap forward had raised hopes that if such a level of progress could be sustained, gender parity in parliament could be achieved within a generation.

With the percentage of women MPs in the world growing by just 6.4 points in the past 10 years, the snail-pace of 2015 has done little to inspire confidence that the trend will change any time soon.

IPU's 2015 statistics on women in parliament underline the urgent need for creative solutions and changing mindsets if there is any chance of meeting goals on political participation and empowerment, says IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong.

The low increase among women MPs is in sharp contrast to the relatively more positive development concerning women parliamentary leaders. The number of women Speakers of Parliament jumped from 43 to 49 (out of the 273 posts globally). Women now account for 17.9 per cent of all Speakers.

WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS (WFUNA) "Mission Possible"

WFUNA has a vision: A UN that is a powerful force in meeting common global challenges and opportunities. It build programs like Mission Possible, to educate and inspire youth to become global citizens who plan their careers around the goals of the UN and become agents of the change they want to see.

Mission Possible is WFUNA's flagship global citizenship education program. Incorporating the goals, principals and experience of WFUNA into one program, Mission Possible empowers young global students to be agents of change. The program enables youth to initiate positive change and impact by integrating a global perspective into youth-led projects. Mission Possible also imparts practical tools such as project management skills to all participants, thanks to a partnership with the Project Management Institute Educational Foundation (PMIEF).

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

III. UN NEWS & UPCOMING UN EVENTS

UN.DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION and DPI NGO COMMITTEE

Education for Global Citizenship:
Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together

Overview: The 66th United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference will be held in the City of Gyeongju, Republic of Korea from 30

May to 1 June 2016. The Conference title is “Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together.” The Conference will take place in the first year of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by United Nations (UN) Member States in September 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure human rights and prosperous and fulfilling lives for all, as part of a new sustainable development agenda to be achieved by 2030. This year, 2016, is a globally unprecedented opportunity to spark these transformational changes, following also on the successful conclusion of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 21st Conference of Parties (COP) agreement in Paris in December 2015.

Co-sponsored by the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, the Conference is an important opportunity to mobilise global civil society around the Sustainable Development Goals. Conference participants will strive to define culturally appropriate international and regional messaging, learning and advocacy strategies, partnerships and governmental accountability frameworks including financing for development. By focusing on education for global citizenship, the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference aims to build on the centrality of education and global citizenship as the bedrock of sustainable development and climate action. The first 60 conferences were held in New York at United Nations Headquarters, as was the 65th conference. In between, the conference was held in Paris, Mexico City, Melbourne and Bonn.

Purpose: Global citizenship is no longer an ideal, but rather a requirement for creating a peaceful, just, and environmentally sustainable world of interconnected societies. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), global citizenship education “aims to empower learners to assume active roles to face and resolve global challenges and to become proactive contributors to a more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive and secure world.” Education for global citizenship should support innovative pedagogies aligned with these ideals and the Sustainable Development Goals. The purpose of this Conference, rooted in Sustainable Development Goal number 4, is to harness strategies, expertise and resources across the widest spectrum of civil society to unleash a range of education initiatives that ensure inclusive, safe and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Three pillars of i) formal education, ii) informal education and training, and iii) advocacy and public information will be examined as means to correct gender, ability, social, economic and other inequalities that create or perpetuate marginalization and disenfranchisement, and thus, hinder achievement of Goal 4, and each of the additional sixteen Sustainable Development Goals. The expertise and reach of the UNESCO, UNICEF, United Nations Academic Impact Initiative (UNAI) and other partners within and beyond the United Nations system will help bridge inclusive discussions across the spectrum of education communities.

Conference Outcome: Attendees at the Conference will finalize an education action agenda to mobilize civil society – its local and international NGOs, networks and activists, as well as academics, educators, policy makers, businesses and youth, reflecting the aspirations and ambitions of all global citizens, in the spirit of leaving no one behind. This agenda will be drafted through a global multi-stakeholder consultation process, leading up to and during the Conference. The agenda will be offered for adoption at the final plenary session of the Conference, and will be shared widely with civil society as well as UN Member States, UN Organizations and the UN Secretary-General.

Venue: The Conference will be held in the City of Gyeongju, located on the South-Eastern part of the Korean peninsula. Gyeongju is the capital city of the Silla dynasty (57BC-935AD), which achieved unification of the Korean Peninsula for the first time in history, and is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. The Conference will be held at Hwabaek International Convention Center (HICO), which offers state-of-the-art facilities for meetings and exhibits.

Participants: The 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference at United Nations Headquarters in New York City was attended by an estimated 2,200 NGO representatives from some 700 NGOs hailing from an estimated 100 countries. In this 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference, NGOs are encouraged to support participation by their own representatives, including youth representatives, and also to support the participation of NGO representatives and voices from vulnerable communities most affected by poverty, inequality, injustice and climate change to contribute to and benefit from the gathering. NGOs that are associated with DPI or in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in addition to universities members of UNAI will automatically be able to register. Other organizations and institutions are encouraged to register and must demonstrate active support for UN values and ideals through their activities and mission statements.

Conclusion: The SDGs and Paris Agreement provide a comprehensive global action agenda for the years 2016 to 2030. These intensely negotiated agreements offer the international community a bold, people-centered and planet-sensitive development framework that requires transformational changes in governance and institutional performance. This Conference will provide an inclusive space focused on education for global citizenship as the key to advancing the SDGs.

For information: <http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/conference>

UN WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT "An Agenda for Humanity" (May 23-24, 2016, Istanbul)

At the Summit in Istanbul, seven high-level Roundtables will provide opportunities for Heads of State and Government and other high level representatives from stakeholders to focus on some of the great humanitarian challenges of our time, and announce their commitments to take forward the Agenda for Humanity to deliver leadership and solutions in addressing these issues.

The prospectus can be found at:
https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_summit/roundtables

The topics of the Leaders Roundtables are:

1. Political leadership to prevent and end conflict
2. Upholding the norms that safeguard humanity
3. Leaving no one behind: a commitment to address forced displacement
4. Women and girls: catalyzing action to achieve gender equality
5. Natural disasters and climate change: managing and preparing differently
6. From providing assistance to ending need
7. Investing in humanity: humanitarian financing

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE ON TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR) New e-course on the UN System

UNITAR offers online 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.

e-Learning course: Introduction to the United Nations System, 23 May - 3 July 2016

As an increasingly globalized world continues to underline the importance of multilateral dialogue and cooperation in confronting this century's challenges, the UN will remain a central forum for progressing ideas and a platform for action. This course aims to provide a historical, political, and analytical framework for liaising more effectively with UN representatives and staff.

Registration: <https://www.unitar.org/event/introduction-united-nations-system-5>

Contact: e-Learning courses [+41 \(0\)22 917 87 16](tel:+41229178716)

Email: mdp-elearning@unitar.org

HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development Habitat III Intersessional Process, April – July 2016

A chance for local leaders and stakeholders to join the negotiations towards the New Urban Agenda

In its endeavour to be as inclusive and collaborative as it can be in the preparatory process on the road to Quito – towards the New Urban Agenda – the General Assembly has decided to organize open-ended informal consultative meetings before the submission of the draft outcome for five days from 25 to 29 April 2016 in New York.

These five days provide the opportunity for feedback on the conclusions of the Habitat III Policy Units and the Regional and Thematic meetings.

The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee will also be convening informal intergovernmental negotiations in New York for these days in May (18-20), three days in June (8-10) and three days from June to July (29 June – 1 July).

Local authorities' associations and stakeholders are invited to participate in the two-day informal hearings in May (16-17) and June (6-7).

This is an opportunity for local leaders and stakeholders to add their voice in shaping future urban policies and charting the direction of our cities in the next decades.

For information: www.habitat3.org

Habitat III Secretariat
Two UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association Celebrating A Half-Century of Assembly And Association Rights

The world's core international human rights treaties are turning 50.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (<http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>) (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ICESCR.aspx>) (ICESCR) were both adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 16, 1966. The ICCPR, of course, enshrines the international rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in articles 21 and 22, respectively. The ICESCR protects the right to form trade unions and to strike. Together, these instruments create the legal backbone of the Special Rapporteur's mandate.

It was a long road to adoption and ratification, and we're still not there yet (as United Nations data shows (<http://indicators.ohchr.org/>), 29 states are still not party to the ICCPR, while 33 are not party to the ICESCR). Implementation has also been imperfect, no doubt. But the ICCPR and ICESCR – together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>) – represent the most ambitious and collaborative attempts at defining and upholding human rights in human history. And however flawed this endeavour has been thus far, the rights enshrined in the ICCPR and ICESCR have undoubtedly inspired hundreds of millions of people.

Celebrate: What better way to mark this anniversary than to use your rights? Get out there and join a demonstration, convene a discussion group, from an association, join a labor union or throw a party (yes, parties are indeed a form of peaceful assembly). Rights are like muscles – they tend to waste away if they're not exercised.

Fifty years is a big number, but it's only a start. Let's join forces to tell the world about this anniversary.

For information: <http://freeassembly.net>

UN WOMEN

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women, the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. In doing so, UN Member States took an historic step in accelerating the Organization's goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The creation of UN Women came about as part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact.

UN Women became fully operational on 1 January 2011. It is headed by an Under-Secretary-General (USG) as the executive director. The current executive director is Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of South Africa, who took the oath of office on 19 August 2013. She was preceded by Michelle Bachelet of Chile.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design law, policies, programs and services needed to implement in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas:

- Increasing women's leadership and participation;
- Ending violence against women and girls;
- Engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes;
- Enhancing women's economic empowerment; and
- Making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

A Regional Network of Aarhus Centres in South-Eastern Europe

As of January 2016, there are 14 Aarhus Centres in South-Eastern Europe, in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia. They are dedicated to the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, to which each of these states is a party. The Aarhus Convention establishes the right of all people to participate fully in environmental decisions affecting their lives. The Aarhus Centres help them to exercise that right by providing information, organizing public hearings, facilitating dialogue on pressing environmental issues. They also provide basic legal advice to citizens, citizen groups and civil society organizations on access to justice in case their right to information and public participation has been violated. Matters of concern might be local, like pollution from a garbage dump, or national, like a new draft law on environmental protection. Or, as in the case of transboundary waterways, they may transcend state boundaries.

The main focus of co-operation among the Aarhus Centres is transboundary challenges: water governance and disaster risk reduction. Each has worked in its respective community in the aftermath of the 2014 cyclonic floods to improve early warning and rapid response.

Aarhus Centres are all about nature and people, but their task is highly political. They need to win the trust of authorities so that they can liaise with them effectively on the part of the

public. Municipalities recognize the Aarhus Centres as reference points for educating the community.

Aarhus Centres were first initiated by the OSCE in 2002, and now number 60 in 14 countries, in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. Another example of cross-border co-operation in the Aarhus Centres Network is between the Aarhus Centres in Osh, Kyrgyzstan and Khujand, Tajikistan, in Central Asia's fertile Ferghana Valley. They formalized their relationship in a Memorandum of Understanding in 2014. The two Aarhus Centres share the Soviet legacy of uranium tailing dumps which pose a serious environmental, security and health hazard and implement joint activities in raising awareness on the risks related to uranium sites as well as to natural disasters.

Read more:

The Aarhus Centres: a Brief Introduction: www.osce.org/secretariat/89067
Websites of Aarhus Centres across the OSCE region: www.osce.org/secretariat/160246

For information: www.osce.org/Aarhus

MAJOR UNESCO PROGRAMMES AND SUB-PROGRAMMES

Many of the following are relevant to a large number of CoNGO Substantive Committees.

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Education Themes

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes>

- Lifelong Learning Systems
- Monitoring and Coordinating Education Development
- Women and Girls Education
- Inclusive education: towards innovative training
- Learning Cities
- Education for Sustainable Development
- Health Education
- Democracy and Global Citizenship
- Building Peace Programmes (peace and human rights)
- Education in post-conflict and post-disaster situations
- Early Childhood Education
- Higher Education
- Continuous learning and vocational training
- Teacher training and capacity building

Natural Sciences

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences>

- Renewable energies in service of humanities

Sciences for peace and development
Water Security through cooperation
Enhancing Science Education
Climate Change Education

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU)

World Summit On The Information Society

WSIS FORUM (May 2-6, 2016, Geneva)

The annual WSIS Forum has become a global multistakeholder platform for coordination of the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes. The Forum, co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line facilitators/co-facilitators and other UN organizations (UNDESA, FAO, UNEP, WHO, ILO, WMO, UN, ITC, UPU, WIPO, UNODC, UNICEF and UN Regional Commissions), is a mechanism for coordination of multistakeholder implementation activities, information exchange, knowledge creation and sharing of best practices, and continues to provide assistance in developing multistakeholder and public-private partnerships to advance development goals. UN Regional Commissions play a vital role in facilitating regional inputs, feeding outcomes of regional meetings, strategies and evaluation towards the WSIS Forum.

For information: www.wsis.org/forum

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU)

CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION

Updated versions of Guidelines for Children and Guidelines for Parents, Educators and Guardians are now available from ITU. Following the adoption of the Regional Initiative on Child Online Protection in Europe at the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2014, ITU and partners updated the Guidelines. The guidelines are meant to be adapted and adopted by all different stakeholders groups. To date, four sets of guidelines have been developed for: CHILDREN, updated in January 2016; PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND EDUCATORS, updated in January 2016; INDUSTRY, Updated guidelines and online case studies are now available; POLICY MAKERS

For information: www.itu.org

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference

An OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference meets annually on the eve of the Ministerial Council to hold up a mirror to OSCE's participating states' implementation of human dimension commitments. The first one was held in 2010 on the occasion of the OSCE Summit in Astana.

Meeting again in Vilnius the following year, a core group of civil society organizations (CSOs) formed the Civic Solidarity Platform, which since has grown to 80 CSOs and conducts not only the annual meetings but also other events and campaigns throughout the year.

At the 2015 OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference, activists discussed the shrinking space for civil society, the challenges posed by migration, prevention of torture and enforced disappearances, and freedom of expression – with OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic as a guest speaker.

Read more: Outcome documents of the 2015 OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference www.helsinki.org.rs/hrights_t12.html

More information on the Civic Solidarity Platform: www.civicsolidarity.org

V. IN MEMORIAM

On March 2, 2016, Berta Cáceres, a leader of the Lenca indigenous community in the western areas of Honduras and a leader of COPINH, a human rights organization, was assassinated. Berta had been identified by an OAS commission as a person requiring special protection by the state because of harassment and death threats. In 2015 she received the Goldman Prize, international recognition for her human rights and environmental protection work.

In a country with growing socioeconomic inequality and human rights violations, Berta Cáceres rallied the indigenous Lenca people of Honduras and waged a grassroots campaign that successfully pressured the world's largest dam builder to pull out of the Agua Zarca Dam.

From: Daniel LeBlanc OMI [+1-202-870-3180](tel:+12028703180)

VI. 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)

April

April 11-15: UN Commission on Population and Development, 49th Session (UN.HQ, New York)
www.unpopulation.org

April 19-21: 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

April 21: CoNGO Substantive Committee: NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva-Extraordinary
General Assembly (Geneva, Switzerland)
<http://ageingcommitteegeneva.org>

May

May 2-6: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS): WSIS FORUM 2016 (Geneva,
Switzerland)
www.wsis.org/forum

May 23-24: 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
The overarching theme of UNEA-2 will be “Delivering on the environmental dimension of
the post-2015 development agenda” (Nairobi, Kenya)
<http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/second-meeting-of-the-un-environment-assembly/>

May 23-28: World Health Organization – World Health Assembly (Geneva)
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/governance/wha/en/>

May 30-June 11: International Labor Conference, 105th Session (Geneva, Switzerland)
<http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/105/reports/reports-to-the-conference/lang--en/index.htm>

June

June 16-18: Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS): 2016 Annual Meeting –
Meeting the Challenges of Development and Dignity (Fordham University, New York)
<http://acuns.org/am2016>

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>

August

August 10-12: “Summer Youth Assembly at the United Nations”, a project of Friendship
Ambassador Foundation (New York)
www.youthassembly.nyc

August 24-26: Graduate Women International (formerly International Federation of University
Women (IFUW)): 32nd Triennial Conference "At the crossroads of education, gender and
human rights"
<http://gwiconference.org/>

September

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

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

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

November

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

November 27-December 1: International Peace Research Association (IPRA), 26th General Conference (Freetown, Sierra Leone)
“Agenda for Peace and Development”
www.iprapeace.org

2018

CoNGO’s 70th Anniversary !

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/>