

NEWSLETTER

February 2015

I. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CoNGO

(updated and extended version of the Message of December 2014)

HONOURING THE UN ON ITS 70th ANNIVERSARY

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

Why is the UN's 70th Anniversary in 2015 of particular relevance to the world of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Here are some considerations.

A. Thousands of NGOs/CSOs have a consultative, operational or other working relationship with one or more parts of the United Nations System worldwide. These are international/regional/national NGOs/CSOs of all sizes, and spread throughout all continents.

B. It is manifest that the United Nations System (all 50+ agencies, secretariats, programs, departments, commissions, forums...) should be the prime location for intelligent, knowledge-based, rational and future-oriented intergovernmental debate and decision-making, to respond to - and where possible resolve - the complex issues and needs of our interconnected planet. Competent and responsible NGO/CSO input to intergovernmental debate and decision-making is a major factor in enhancing competent and responsible government output.

C. The strength and relevance of NGOs/CSOs derive from their extraordinary diversity. They are "front-line soldiers" in both advocacy and grass-roots cooperation with the United Nations System. NGOs/CSOs cover innumerable concerns: sustainable development, migration, indigenous peoples, ageing, status of women, disarmament and peace, freedom of association and assembly, promotion of democracy, human rights, financing for development, mental health, the family, narcotic drugs, volunteerism, and more. Many NGOs/CSOs are currently deeply engaged in promoting the UN Post-2015 Agenda, generating expanded knowledge of, and access to, all levels of this complex, challenging and unifying process.

D. In society, NGOs/CSOs give voice to and advocate on behalf of citizens and their interests. NGOs and CSOs are, after all, nothing more - and nothing less - than groupings of citizens who have self-organized to promote a good cause (poverty eradication, access to justice, widening the information society, health for all, humanitarian relief etc) or to combat a bad one (trafficking in human beings, pollution of the oceans, child soldiers, violence against women, nuclear proliferation etc). They work with and through United Nations Conferences, Summits, organs and legal instruments. The moral and ethical "power" of NGOs/CSOs knows no limits, so

one must be gravely concerned at the increasing number of examples throughout the world of regressive government action to limit, constrain, cast a slur on, or even disband or "outlaw" legitimate NGOs and CSOs. NGOs/CSOs have an essential role in society as responsible actors for democracy, human rights and the rule of law. As key elements of participatory democracy, NGOs/CSOs are complementary to institutions of representative democracy. NGOs/CSOs themselves are representative of the long-term causes they promote, and need no authorization or condescension from transitory governments.

E. The United Nations System has been, and can be even more, a positive force in

- connecting, strengthening and scaling local and regional civil society networks, in the context of international advocacy and action
- connecting diverse communities: universities, foundations, associations, institutes, research centres, federations, alliances, scientific and technical bodies, and naturally grass-roots and other activist organizations
- addressing/harnessing/encouraging NGOs/CSOs to promote imagination and innovation in confronting the world's problems, progressively adapting both civil society AND United Nations modalities and practices
- facilitating NGO/CSO advocacy campaigns around global issues that are - or should be - addressed by intergovernmental structures, for example disarmament, population, social development, environment, ageing, social justice, human settlements, women's empowerment, sexual and reproductive rights, and many more...

F. Every one of the topics mentioned above can be, and should be, brought to the forefront of international dialogue throughout the UN's 70th Anniversary Year. The Anniversary is an occasion to underline the fundamental synergy between UN VALUES and NGO/CSO ETHICS, and to focus on TOGETHER preparing the world to be a better place for future generations. To that end, CoNGO is preparing to organize and/or co-host commemorative forums throughout 2015 in New York, Geneva and Vienna, the three UN Centres where CoNGO has offices. We shall shortly announce further steps, and we invite support, partnership and participation.

Cyril Ritchie
President of CoNGO

II. SECRETARIAT

Additional note by Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

CoNGO has a long-standing and valued relationship with Kyung Hee University (KHU), Seoul, Korea, which selects and provides highly qualified students as interns at CoNGO Offices. With, on the one hand, competent and motivated interns, and on the other, attentive and time-sensitive guidance from the employing organization, the engagement of interns can - and must - be a win-win situation.

I thus am glad to welcome to the CoNGO Geneva Office the latest in the ranks of KHU interns, Sinmyung Park. He is responsible for the production of this CoNGO E-NEWSLETTER, which augurs well for the few short months he will be with us.

The CoNGO Geneva Office also benefits from focussed and/or occasional support from some devoted volunteers: Lee Weingarten, Donna Reitano, Sheila Bordier. I thank them too for so well embodying the volunteer spirit that is at the heart of the non-governmental community.

The CoNGO New York Office is engaging two interns who will at the initial phase focus on the 59th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (March 9-20).

THANKS TO ALL !

III. CoNGO SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEES

CoNGO Committee on Social Development, New York CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION 2015 (*Extracts*)

53rd UN Commission for Social Development *Civil Society Perspectives: Re-Centering Social Development in a Sustainable World*

Rethinking Social Development

The introduction to the Proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals asserts that “Poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today.” Rethinking social development therefore requires a conception of poverty more flexible and holistic than the current \$1.25 per day metric. The concept of poverty must be capable of supporting the creative participation of persons at all levels in the planning and construction of humanity’s collective future. Efforts to alleviate poverty would, therefore, need to address not only conditions that inhibit people and communities from enjoying the benefits of society’s progress, but also conditions that hinder people from contributing their capacities toward the ongoing advance of social development.

Inequality and Poverty

Inequalities and poverty are the most formidable obstacles to global advancement and well-being. As the 2014 Human Development Report warns, “The world has experienced progress in human development for some time. But increasingly this progress seems threatened by uncertainty and by persistent inequality...” Significantly, the report notes that policies that “promote the extension of the benefits of prosperity to all and build broader societal resilience” are “the outcomes of vigorous collective action, equitable and effective institutional responses and far-sighted leadership.”

Deprivations in health, education, nutrition, safety, representation and many other areas derive in great part from a lack of financial resources. Economic justice must therefore be a central priority of the post-2015 development agenda.

Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, as UNDP explains, “it is not simply a lack of adequate income; it is a cruel mix of human deprivation in knowledge, health, dignity and rights, obstacles to participation and lack of voice.” Similarly, inequalities assume numerous and intersecting forms such as inequalities of access to basic services, of voice, of agency and of access to the tools of trade and entrepreneurship. Critical as economic justice will be to sustainable progress, those formulating the global development agenda must never forget that human lives well lived are the ultimate objective and yardstick of social development. **The tendency of revenue, capital, wealth, and debt to exert undue influence over development discussions must be firmly resisted.**

Human Rights

Human rights are inseparable from development. The development enterprise relies and strengthens the rights to water, food, housing, participation, education, employment and beyond. To divide the UN into silos – development, human rights, and peace and security – is to reject the reality of our holistic existence. No one of these areas can truly succeed unless all are recognized as interrelated and mutually reinforcing. At this moment in history, understanding and reimagining these relationships is critical.

Social integration, a concept stressed in the Copenhagen Declaration, has been noticeably absent from recent discourses on development. Nevertheless, the “quest for humane, stable, safe, tolerant and just societies” must not be abandoned and the goal of attaining an inclusive society must be central to a strong development agenda. An inclusive society based on respect for all human rights in the context of the rule of law is an environment in which social development can occur and in which the human spirit can flourish with freedom of expression, freedom of belief, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

Means of Implementation

In order to strengthen social development in the way herein conceptualized, means of implementation must be secured in a synergistic fashion. Means of implementation must be particularly oriented towards the most vulnerable populations in an effort to include them in development while furnishing the support they need to properly engage.

Tax justice, progressive tax systems and debt cancellation should be the primary policies used to generate revenues for social programmes. Additional revenues from improved taxation should be used to avoid user fees for the most vulnerable communities and to support peoples’ cooperatives, small and medium farmers, and other small and medium enterprises. This support can be further enhanced through other incentives for the promotion of entrepreneurship among communities of low income.

Means of implementation is about more than financing. Without the full participation of the most vulnerable as implementing partners, no development program will be sustainable. Therefore, a more holistic conception of means of implementation should be articulated.

Conclusion

It is the job of governments, civil society, and other stakeholders that focus on social development to ensure that the development agenda takes into account these aspects of human development which are so difficult to quantify and therefore often cast aside. Without this orientation, the development agenda post 2015 will continue to systematically exclude and disempower the most vulnerable populations. Only when the international community prioritizes the participation, empowerment, and full involvement of these populations will development be sustainable.

IV. CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

THE SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO AWARD

The Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation was created by family and friends of Sergio in 2007, honouring the memory of the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, who was killed in Baghdad in 2003 while serving as the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in Iraq. One of the aims of the Foundation is to award an Annual Prize in Sergio's name to individuals, institutions or communities in recognition of outstanding and unique work for peaceful reconciliation between peoples and parties in conflict.

Call for submission of nominations of awardees for 2015 is now open. The deadline for nominations is 30 April.

You can learn more about the Foundation and the award at the webpage:

http://www.sergiovdmfoundation.org/wcms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=89&Itemid=112&lang=en

GLOBAL VISION INSTITUTE

UN MEDAL FOR COURAGE: CAPTAIN MBAYE DIAGNE

In the year 2014, the United Nations and the whole world commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide of 1994, when over a million people were killed in the most atrocious ways, despite the presence of a UN peacekeeping force on the ground.

In the middle of all that horror and violence, in sharp contrast with the passive inaction of the international community, a UN Military Observer, Captain Mbaye Diagne of Senegal, took the immediate, personal decision to go, alone and unarmed, and rescue as many people as he could from torture and death, and he kept on saving lives until he was himself killed on 31 May 1994.

For twenty long years from that day, Captain Mbaye Diagne was totally forgotten by the United Nations, until in 2014 the BBC told his heroic story in the "A good man in Rwanda" documentary

(http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/special/2014/newsspec_6954/index.html). After watching it, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Hussein, then the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations in New York, declared before the UN Security Council that Captain Mbaye Diagne is "the greatest hero of the United Nations" and went on to propose to coin a medal to honor the bravest of all peacekeepers.

On 8th of May 2014, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2154 (2014) which recognized the Captain's heroism and decided to create the "Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage", to be awarded to those military, police and civilian United Nations or associated personnel who demonstrate exceptional courage, in the face of extreme danger, while fulfilling the mandate of their missions or their functions, in the service of humanity and the United Nations.

In 2014, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Hussein became the new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In his first public address before the Human Rights Council, on 8 September 2014, Prince Zeid stated: "I would like to make a simple point: courage is the first human virtue, revered the world over, the very virtue we value the most as human beings. The courageous individual is not he or she who wields great political power or points a gun at those who do not – that is not courage. The courageous individual is he or she who has nothing to wield but common sense, reason and the law, and is prepared to forfeit future, family, friends and even life in defence of others, or to end injustice.

In its most magnificent form, the courageous individual undertakes this exertion, without ever threatening or taking the life of someone else, and certainly not someone defenceless. As the Viennese thinker Stefan Zweig wrote, after having lived through one world war and fled another, "Our greatest debt of gratitude is to those who in these inhuman times confirm the human in us." Human rights defenders are such courageous people, and we must do everything we can to protect them, and celebrate them. The UN is often slow to recognise this. Captain Mbaye Diagne of Senegal was probably the most courageous man who ever served with the UN, but until recently was never recognized by the UN headquarters for his sacrifice. He saved possibly a thousand people in Rwanda in the spring of 1994, and lost his life doing so, and never hurt anybody."

Source: Enrico Muratore
Regional Good Governance Programme Coordinator, Oxfam
Secretary General of the Association of Captain Mbaye Diagne for the Culture of Peace

For further information, please visit the website:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14998&LangID=E>

Contact: gviteam@globalvisioninstitute.org

NATALIA PROJECT

The Natalia Project is the world's first alarm and positioning system for human rights defenders at risk. The bearers wear the Natalia Project alarm on their wrists. In case of an attack, a pull of the wristband activates the alarm upon which a distress signal is sent to Civil Rights Defenders headquarters in Stockholm. The signal is then verified by people on the ground.

The ability to act quickly can be the difference between life and death. Within minutes of the attack, the signal is also sent out to global social media platforms, allowing people all over the globe to immediately get involved and exercise pressure on the regime.



Each bearer of the Natalia bracelet also has a comprehensive security plan and in order to become a bearer, each human rights defender gets tailored security training where they learn how to use the bracelet and get assistance in developing an organizational security protocol.

The Natalia Project is named after Natalia Estemirova, who was abducted and murdered 2009 in Chechnya.

You can learn more about the project at the webpage: <http://natalia.civilrightsdefenders.org>

Contact: nataliaproject@civilrightsdefenders.org

Constant Contact: Civil Rights Defenders, Stora Nygatan 26, 111 27 Stockholm, Sweden

International Network of Human Rights (RIDH)

Presentation & Official Launch of the Geneva Human Rights Agenda APP

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, Geneva, presents a new, innovative and free application called “Geneva Human Rights Agenda”. This APP was developed by the NGO the International Network of Human Rights (RIDH) and was funded largely by the Swiss Confederation. It aims to incorporate all human rights related events taking place at the UN in Geneva, together with the publicly available documents, on one single platform.

For more information, please visit the website: <http://www.ridh.org>

V. UN NEWS & UPCOMING UN EVENTS

United Nations Commission on Social Development 53rd Session, February 2015

The UN Commission for Social Development recommended four Draft Resolutions for adoption by the UN Economic and Social Council: they address issues of African development, ageing, youth and the rights of persons with disabilities.

In closing remarks, Commission Chair Simona Mirela Miculescu (Romania) emphasized that progress towards sustainable development could not be achieved under the prevailing growth model, which was not employment friendly. She recapped the session’s highlights, including a commemorative event celebrating the 20 years since the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, in which speakers presented their positions under the theme of “Social Development: From Copenhagen to the Post-2015 Agenda”.

Other highlights included a high-level panel on the priority theme, “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world”; a panel on emerging issues; a civil society forum; and discussions on issues related to social groups: youth, older persons, family and persons with disabilities among them.

For more information, please click <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/soc4830.doc.htm>

United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA)

Amid intensifying competition for water, timber and other scarce resources as a result of population growth, climate change and environmental degradation, the United Nations has launched a new Guide that aims to promote mediation as an effective tool in preventing and resolving disputes over land and natural resources.

Read more:

<http://un-dpa.tumblr.com/post/111408663384/un-guide-promotes-the-use-of-mediation>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The latest publication of OHCHR, *NEW PRACTICAL GUIDE ON "CIVIL SOCIETY SPACE AND THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM"*, is now available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

About the publication

Freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and the right to participate in public affairs, are human rights that enable people to share ideas, form new ones, and join together with others to claim their rights. It is through the exercise of these public freedoms that we make informed decisions about our economic and social development. It is through these rights that we can take part in civic activity and build democratic societies. To restrict them undermines our collective progress.

This Guide highlights issues related to the work of civil society actors (CSAs). It begins with a working definition of the terms 'civil society' and 'civil society space'. It then provides an overview of the conditions and environment needed for a free and independent civil society, including relevant international human rights standards for freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and the right to participate in public affairs.

The Guide includes some examples of how Governments and CSAs have worked together to develop space for civil society to carry out its work to advance enjoyment of all human rights (civil, cultural, economic, political and social) for all. Obstacles and limitations to civil society work are identified, including harassment, intimidation and reprisals against CSAs.

The Guide invites CSAs to use the UN human rights system to promote and protect civil society space at the local level. Resources and contact details are provided at the end of the Guide.

The Guide aims primarily to assist CSAs who are not yet familiar with the UN human rights system. Its development has been enriched from the outset by input and advice from diverse CSAs.

To download the latest publication and other OHCHR's series of practical guides for civil society, please visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>

UNITES NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR)

UNITAR is pleased to share the following free online courses offered by the United Nations:

1. MILESTONES IN UN PEACEKEEPING
2. INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS
3. ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: RESTORING GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
4. INTRODUCTION TO SECURITY SECTOR REFORM
5. INTRODUCTION À LA RÉFORME DU SECTEUR DE LA SÉCURITÉ

For further information, visit the UNITAR website: <http://www.unitar.org/free-courses> or contact ptp@unitar.org

UNITAR Peacekeeping Training Programme
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

UNITAR course on “Sustainable Development within International Economic Law”

UNITAR invites participation in its new online course on “Sustainable Development within International Economic Law” taking place from 22 APRIL TO 22 MAY 2015.

The course is aimed to provide a comprehensive knowledge of the emergence and the growing impact of sustainable development in International Economic Law. It critically explores the constraints of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) on free trade and provides a tool to better understand future negotiations towards the strengthening of sustainable development in the economic sector. Participants will also learn about the redesign of the investment sector to meet the challenge of developing sustainably.

The course is composed of four modules. As an asynchronous course, it is also well-suited to professionals working full time.

Deadline for registrations: 25 April 2015

For more information and registration:

<https://www.unitar.org/event/sustainable-development-within-international-economic-law>

2015 Human Development Report – Rethinking Work for Human Development

Work is the means for unleashing human potential, creativity, innovation and spirit. It is essential to make human lives productive, worthwhile and meaningful. It enables people to earn a living, gives them a means to participate in society, provides them with security and gives them a sense of dignity. Work is thus inherently and intrinsically linked to human development. But it is important to recognize that there is no automatic link between work and human development. Nor does every type of work enhance human development. Exploitative work, particularly exploitation of women and children, robs people of their fair share, their rights and their dignity. Likewise, work that is hazardous – work without safety measures, labour rights, or social protection – is not conducive to human development.

More importantly, the linkages between work and human development must be seen in the context that over time the notion of what constitutes work has changed, areas of work have shifted and the modus operandi of work has evolved. What used to mean work three decades

ago is no longer valid, and work is defined differently now. Now, some of these changes may contribute positively to various dimensions of human development, but some aspects of these new phenomena may have negative impacts for human development.

The 2015 Human Development Report (2015 HDR) will be on Rethinking Work for Human Development.

For more information, contact Human Development Report Office at hdro.web@undp.org

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

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 9-20: UN ECOSOC Commission on the Status of Women: CSW59 / Beijing+20 –

"Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action" (UN Headquarters, New York)

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015>

March 11, 2.30 pm: CoNGO's Substantive Committee (New York) on Freedom of Religion or Belief: a side event at the session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, to focus on obstacles women face in pursuing equal enjoyment of the rights to freedom of religion or belief in the particular context of marriage and the family.

Venue: Hardin Room of the Church Center, located at 1st Avenue and East 44th Street, New York.

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

March 14-18: UNISDR: 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai, Japan)
<http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/wcdr>

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