



Women's

Federation for World Peace International

United Nations Office Newsletter

Fall 2002

55th Annual DPI/NGO Conference Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility

United Nations, New York - September 9-11, 2002



The 55th Annual DPI/NGO Conference entitled “Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility” was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from September 9-11, 2002, organized by the NGO’s Section of the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) in cooperation with the Executive Committee of NGOs associated with DPI.

The conference was open only to representatives of NGO associated with DPI, those in consultative status with the UN through ECOSOC or those working with the UN agencies and programmes or with the UN information Centers and Services. Over 2000 individual participants represented 700 NGOs from 81 countries this year.

The opening session of the conference took place in the General Assembly Hall at 10:00 am -12:30 pm on September 9. Starting with the Welcome Remarks of Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary General for Communication and Public Information of the UN, there were addresses by the President of the 56th Session of the UN General Assembly, Mr. Han Seung-Soo and the Deputy Secretary General of the UN, Ms. Louise Frechett. Keynote address was given by the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the UN for Afghanistan Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi and High Commissioner for Human Rights of the UN, Ms. Mary Robinson whose term was completed on that day. NGO Welcome Remarks were also made by Chair, NGO/DPI Executive Committee, Mr. Donald Treimann, President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with UN (CONGO), Ms. Renate Bloem and Conference Chair, Ms. Sherill Kazan Alvarez de Toledo.

In her keynote address, Ms. Mary Robinson, High Commissioner for Human Rights shared her experience with women’s NGOs in Somalia and Rwanda as she visited those countries

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when she was the President of Ireland. It was not the UN or any governmental organizations that went into those post-conflict countries first to help them. She witnessed that it was the Women’s NGOs. Women who have been excluded from history must be included in the creation of history, especially in post-conflict reconstruction.

Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Representative of UN for Afghanistan had also stated that the work he is doing in Afghanistan could not be accomplished without the NGO’s support. There were International and local NGOs who were active in Afghanistan while international society had abandoned and ignored the situation. There are issues that UN cannot handle and there are issues that NGOs cannot handle therefore, NGOs and the UN have very vital partnership.



Statement of Purpose

The Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) supports a network of National WFWPI Chapters worldwide. WFWPI Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our societies and world.

Ultimately "solutions" come as *true* partnerships between men and women are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society's most elemental level—the family. Peace then expands into our communities, nation and world.

Therefore, WFWPI works to provide women worldwide with:
the knowledge, tools and support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities, our nations and our world.

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Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

“Contribution of Human Resources Development Including in the Area of Health and Education to the Process of Development”

A Vital Element of Education to Secure Human Resources Development

Statement to the High Level Segment

By Motoko Sugiyama

On behalf of the Women's Federation for World Peace International

June 25, 2002

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates:

It is my great honor and privilege to address the High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council of 2002 on behalf of Women's Federation for World Peace International as an international NGO accredited to ECOSOC with General Consultative Status.

The human family has traveled a long way to arrive where we are today, and it seems that there are tremendous opportunities for us to learn from these manifold experiences. While the 20th Century has been categorized as a century of wars and a century of refugees, at the same time, it was a century displaying the most rapid development of science and technology. As an international women's NGO that has developed and promoted grassroots service projects such as school projects, vocational centers, foster parents projects, scholarship funds, micro credit programs, and more, in over 100 countries in the past 10 years, we have witnessed the solemn fact that human beings who face no discrimination have the greatest potential for human resources development. Yet



From right Ms. Motoko Sugiyama, Dr. Po Ya Chun, President of WFWPI Taiwan and Ms. Lily Chen, Vice President of WFWPI Taiwan at the Economic Social Council Substantive Session of 2002 (July 1-26, 2002)

on the other hand, we have witnessed that it is also human beings who cause the greatest de-struction of this potential.

While this modern age is characterized by globalization, the existing gap between the global north and south is sadly growing. I propose that even more dismaying than the growing technological and economic gap is the gap which remains between the mind and heart of the human being. We as individuals, families and communities have not yet “globalized” our minds, our hearts. If globalization of mind and heart of human beings does not occur, there will be the greatest potential for the destruction rather than the development of human resources.

The recent September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in USA underscored a major flaw in humanity and actually helped highlight an essential focus for us if we are to secure global peace. This event was caused by individuals whose anger and desire for justice misused religious images and terminology in a most extreme way to justify their actions, which were far from being true to the spirit of the religion they professed to represent.

Unfortunately, the universal principles and values now enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirmed in the Millennium Declaration were severely trampled upon that day. These principles and values were distilled from the best of our cultures and civilizations earlier in the 20th Century, cultures and civilizations that had emerged over time and have been shaped by the sacred wisdom of the world's religions. Clearly, dangers

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At the UN in New York...

Reports of DPI/NGO Briefings

Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
26 August- 4 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa

The briefing on the "Preparations for the World Summit in Sustainable Development 26 August - 4 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa" was held on April 18th, 2002 from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon at the Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium, United Nations, New York.

The speakers were: Ms. Zehra Aydin-Sipos, Focal Point for Major Groups, Division for Sustainable Development of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations and Ms. June Zeitlin - Executive Director, Women's Environment and

Development Organization (WEDA). The briefing was focused on orientation, providing NGOs with all the fundamental information about the WSSD, as well as the agenda of issues to be discussed. Each speaker emphasized that there would be broad participation, including representatives from various governments, the business sector, youth and NGOs. WSSD will focus on follow-up and implementation of the ideals of Rio and Agenda 21. After the speakers' presentations, the floor was opened for NGOs to voice their questions and comments. The briefing was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

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International Youth Day

UNHQ, New York - 12 August 2002
10:00 am - 12:00 pm,
Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium

On August 17, 1999, in resolution 54/120 I, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth held in Lisbon, 8-12 August 1999 that each 12th of August be declared International Youth Day. On this day the Secretary-General called upon youth of the world to continue to carry forward the ideals of Agenda 21, making their voices heard as major stakeholders in the planet's future. Agenda 21 was formulated and adopted by 168 nations in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, at the UN Conference on the Environment and Development. It establishes a comprehensive global plan of action for sustainable development through partnerships between developed nations and developing nations. (More about Agenda 21 can be found on the UN website, www.un.org). The involvement of youth in environment and development decision-making, as well as in the implementation of programs is critical to the long-term success of Agenda 21.

The third commemoration of International Youth Day 2002 took place on August 12, 2002 at the UN HQ, New York. The

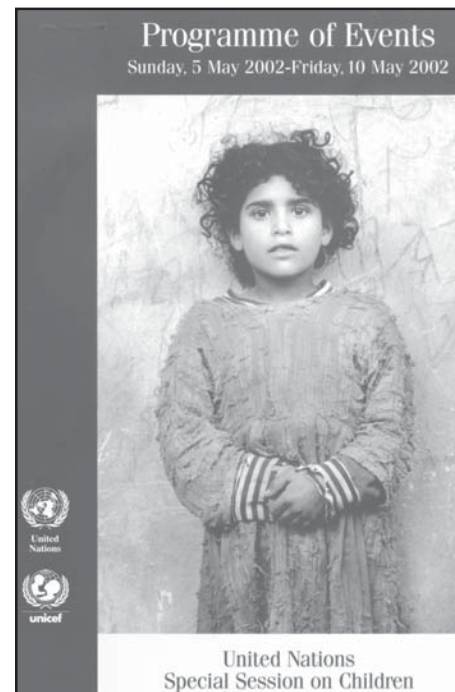
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and Department of Public Information (DPI), and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) jointly organized a panel discussion on "Now and for the Future: Youth Action for Sustainable Development". The panel focused on the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002. Speakers included Mr. Nitin Desai, Undersecretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Mr. Stephen Commins, Social Policy Specialist, Human Development Network, World Bank. There were two young speakers representing the youth. Ms. Yvonne Maingey, an active youth participant at the Children's Conference on the Environment held in Canada, spoke first. Ms. Maingey also has a children's TV program in Nairobi. Another young speaker was Ms. Ghazal Badiozamani, who is directly involved with youth and the drafting of the outcome document of WSSD.

Mr. Desai spoke on the Overview of WSSD in relation to youth. According to Mr. Desai, WSSD will involve nine major groups. There will be partnership plenaries with the nine representatives of these major

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A World Fit for Children

The United Nations General Assembly **Special Session on Children** was held May 8- 10, 2002 at UN Headquarters in NY. This was an unprecedented meeting that offered an opportunity to change the way the world views and treats children and adolescents.



This Special Session on Children was the culmination of a decade of planning and action to improve the well being of children, on the part of governments, NGO's and other international organizations that began at the World Summit On Children in 1990 when world leaders met at the UN and determined to work toward a world fit for children.

Appropriately, the outcome document of this Special Session on Children is entitled "A World Fit For Children". This document outlines main issues still to be faced in the struggle to improve the lives of children. These areas of concern are Health, Education, Abuse, Violence and Exploitation, as well as HIV/AIDS. In addition to a detailed list of specific problems, there were goals laid out for the next decade and a plan of action to tackle these problems.

The SSGA on Children was an opportunity to look back on what had been accomplished on behalf of children since the World Summit On Children, assess the current state of affairs as well as discuss where to go from here. This was done through official sessions at UN Head-

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At the UN in Geneva ...

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S SEMINAR TO MARK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Geneva - March 6-8, 2002

Terrorism, the Global Order, Arms and Missile Defense

Since 1984, women have come together at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, to mark 8 March, International Women's Day, to focus on disarmament and related issues from a woman's perspective. This provides an opportunity for disarmament specialists, diplomats and representatives of concerned non-governmental organizations to share information and knowledge. The seminar is timed to coincide with the weekly open plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), to which a statement from the seminar is read.

During the past several years, topics of the International Women's Day seminars have included ; Feminist Perspectives on Security, The Role of the Media, Development and Disarmament and Small Arms.

This year the NGO Working Group on Women and Peace of which WFWPI is a member, sponsored the event. Carolyn Handschin, the main representative of WFWPI in Geneva, was invited to chair two of the sessions. This year's topic was chosen in light of September 11th an event that shocked the world and left a profound sense of insecurity and vulnerability. A paper outlining the viewpoint of WFWPI on the topic was distributed with the conference documents.

Speakers included H.E. Mary Whelen, Ambassador of Ireland to the United Nations in Geneva, who is one of the few women represented at the Conference on Disarmament. Patricia Lewis, Director of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) was also a speaker. In reference to the ongoing stalemate within the CD, Ms. Lewis warned that we are undermining ourselves. In particular, she encouraged the NGO's present to help uplift the face of disarmament to a more humane image. Ms. Lewis went on to explain that this can be done by going beyond the self interest, fear and domination that have often motivated those in the driver's seat of the conference.

Staying in touch with a basic motivation of caring for people and our planet is the best way to assure success. If the leaders won't do it, civil society and the NGO's must do so. An example is the way that civil society and many NGO's rallied around the land-mine issue in spite of inertia at the top. The advertising campaigns by several United Nations organizations that educated people about the effect of landmines on innocent lives, as well as the courage demonstrated by many to stand up for what is right no matter who is saying otherwise were probably the two most important elements in raising awareness of the tragedies involved in landmine use. Until this day many nations haven't signed the landmine treaty, but the strategy about using landmines has changed completely because the will of the people in

unison has been a very powerful force to influence this issue.

A discussion of 'Best Practices' in dealing with terrorism in Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka raised questions about the proliferation of small arms and how local women could deter this proliferation. Presentations from the President of the NGO Committee on Disarmament, David Atwood and the Secretary General of the International Peace Bureau, Colin Archer stressed the need to develop non-military strategies to pre-empt fighting and, in the long term, prevent terrorism.

The general consensus among speakers and participants was that there is a tremendous need for the disarmament issue to be a more inclusive and humanitarian one, one that has the power to touch the minds and hearts of people and bring them to action.



WFWPI Statement

by Carolyn Handschin, WFWPI Representative to UN in Geneva

In the Secretary General's report on the work of the Security Council last year, he reiterated his commitment to "move the UN from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention". He went on to say "that the earlier the root causes of a potential conflict are identified and effectively addressed, the more likely it is that the parties to a conflict will be ready to engage in a constructive dialogue, address the actual grievances that lie at the root of the potential conflict and *refrain from the use of force to achieve their aims.*" [A/55/985 S/2001/574](#)

It is also useful to note the interest of many nation states in the promise of *Dialogue among Civilizations* as containing the seed of a new paradigm of international relations that holds conflict prevention as the primary obligation of Member States. A RES 56 6

With this in mind we can turn to the issue of 'Terrorism, the Global Order, Arms and Missile Defense'. The global order is shifting from a simpler set of

relationships between nations to a more complex one that includes nonstate actors along with state actors as initiators of both conflict and reventive actions. September 11 made this very clear and highlighted the need for ongoing dialogue among civilizations with new priority given to interreligious dialogue.

Globalization and technologies now available enable individuals and small groups of people to impact our world in ways only previously available to nations. Collective decision making processes eclipsed the prevalence of our profound inter-relatedness and the individual moral responsibility that accompanies our humanity. Today's technologies magnify the capacity of individuals to dramatically affect the lives of other individuals and even whole nations. We have witnessed how the errant behavior of demented individuals can shatter our sense of security and order, leaving us without defenses. Fortunately, the heroic reactions of some individuals at the cost of great personal

“Women’s Role in Building World Peace through Non-Violence”

The Sixth Women’s Conference for Peace in the Middle East

Crete, Greece - May 7-10, 2002

Thirty women from 14 Middle Eastern nations gathered to respond to the question, “What can women do to solve the conflict in the Middle East?”

Difficulties to Overcome

“Women, by nature seek non-violent solutions to conflicts so that their loved ones will not have to suffer. This nature is what we want for the leaders to have in order to stop violence during this time of conflict, where thousands of lives are being lost in the Middle East.” H.E. Inam Al-Mufti, former Minister of Social Development of Jordan and chair of the conference, greeted the participants in this way at the Opening Session. That remark was also a response to the question posed by Prof. Lan Young Moon Park, President of WFWP International: “What can we do? What can women do at this time to resolve the terrible conflict and suffering in the Middle East?”

There was concern about holding a conference at a time when tension was at a peak, with suicide bombings and armed conflict escalating between the Israelis and Palestinians, with the peace process itself in crisis. However, the 30 women from 14

Middle Eastern countries saw the significance of holding the conference during this time, and gathered at the Capsis Beach Hotel on the island of Crete, Greece. About half of the women were attending this annual conference for the first time. In addition to the participants, there were 32 observers from Japan.

Women as Peace Makers

The main theme of the conference was the “Women’s Role in Building World Peace through Non-Violence.” At the Welcoming Banquet on the evening of May 7, Dr. Zoe Bennett, co-chair representing WFWP Greece, welcomed the group by stating, “Let’s start to build peace, beginning with this conference.” The participants then introduced themselves, and alumni enjoyed the reunion with friends from previous conferences.

The morning of May 8 was bright and clear. Small fishing boats floated among the peaceful waves of the Aegean Sea. After breakfast, the participants met at the conference hall, a bit tense at first. At the

Middle East Peace , continued on pg. 9

THE CRETE DECLARATION WOMEN’S COALITION FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST (WCPM)

The Women’s Conference for Peace in the Middle East convened a sixth meeting in Crete, Greece, 7-10 May 2002, to highlight the importance of non-violence as the only approach to conflict resolution in the face of the current bloodshed and suffering in the region. The participants, coming from fifteen countries of the region, formulated the following declaration by consensus:

We, the undersigned, the Women’s Coalition for Peace in the Middle East (WCPM) - an initiative of the Women’s Federation for World Peace International (WFWP, UN NGO in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC), express our deep sorrow and anger at the continuing cycles of violence in the Middle East.

In the spirit of establishing security and peace in the Middle East, we call for the cessation of the Israeli-Palestinian violence and of the restoration of international legitimacy in all areas where conflicts exist. We call upon the International Community to recognise and support the efforts of civil society in general and WFWP in particular in promoting peace in the Middle East.

In accordance with UN resolution 1325, which reaffirmed “the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and (stressed) the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance of peace and security,” we recognise our active role especially in the areas of peace-building, civil reconstruction and development. We will foster compassion and reconciliation in our society. We will cooperate as women and mothers to bring peace to the Middle East region and help bring an end to a centuries- old conflict, working together in equal participation and mutual respect.

The conference concluded by proposing a series of initiatives, such as but not limited to:

- ◆ Collaborating in research projects on women’s conditions and experiences in the region as a basis for policy recommendations.
- ◆ Encouraging educational institutions to adopt education for peace materials into their curricula.
- ◆ Providing training for women – empowerment, gender awareness, legal literacy and conflict resolution.
- ◆ Influencing media to project a balanced and positive image of the cultural and religious diversity of the region.

In light of the above, we welcome cooperation and support from the appropriate United Nations agencies and other relevant bodies.

sacrifice again reminded us that there are universal standards of ethical behavior that bind us.

In the face of the magnitude of today’s threats, it is not possible to dismantle existing defense mechanisms without replacing them with adequate coverage. But, it would be our contention that a more innovative approach to dealing with the threat of armed conflict would be by mainstreaming preventative strategies that target individual responsibility and accountability through both long term and short term strategies.

Treaties between nations may quell the conflict temporarily but ultimately the conflict must be resolved in the minds and hearts of those people directly involved. Individual accountability through such mechanisms as the UN War Crimes Tribunals or similar national or local level efforts is a critical first step. But to ensure a lasting peace, the process must continue beyond the point of reconciliation from government to grass roots, all actors must cooperate to see that the process is not interrupted. The search for durable, self generating solutions points us towards a

focus on education around a global ethic that is premised on an interaction of Human Rights and corresponding Human Responsibilities. If well thought out, this shift from a culture of ‘victims of the cycle of conflict’ to one of constructive contributors to the cycle of prevention portends the unleashing of tremendous potential.

Finally, we are trying to find long term solutions to issues of disarmament that should focus on the clarification of a global ethic and the most effective means of facilitating the adoption of that ethic by all. What is needed is the capacity and courage to look beyond the barriers of race, religion, socio economics, nationality and ethnicity to core universal elements that are understandable and accessible to all. Ironically, our most far reaching solutions will be implemented through our *most immediate and most potent sphere of influence, our families and our communities.*

Summarizing in the words of the Secretary General, “The time has come to translate the rhetoric of conflict prevention into concrete action” .



Activities In South America & Caribbean

Chile

Activity Report from WFWP-Chile

Jan 8, 02 - WFWP representatives met with Chile's First Lady, Mrs. Luisa Duran de Lagros, sharing about WFWP projects in Chile. WFWP presented the First Lady with a donation for her project "Smile of Woman," which helps poor women get needed dental care.

Mar 8, 02 - Awards presentation during WFWP's International Woman's Day Celebration honoring four Chilean women with the most prominent accomplishments.

Monthly WFWP Partner Meetings including educational presentations, planning sessions and fundraising activities.

Ongoing Service to the Home of the Las Rosas Foundation, assisting poor senior citizens. WFWP Japan donated US\$1700 to purchase a commercial clothes dryer.



March 7, 2001 WFWP representatives visited the Government House introducing WFWP activities and presenting a gift to the First Lady of Chile received by Mrs. Alicia Pereblanca (center), Cabinet Leader.



Annual WFWP Awards Celebration on March 8th, the Int'l Woman Day



WFWP Japan donates Commercial Clothes Dryer to the Home of Las Rosas Foundation, March 16, 2001.

Dominican Republic

Activity Report from WFWP-Dominican Republic

Ballet Group Performances - throughout 2001 and 20002 on TV, at schools and various WFWP functions.

Clothing Distribution - Received donation (Jan 02) of 585 boxes of used clothing from Japanese NGO called AAA and distributed it (Mar 02) to 5 charitable organizations serving the handicapped.



Aids Seminar for 150 employees of the Popular Savings and Loan Association

Medal of Merit - was awarded to the WFWP president by the President of the Dominican Republic, for her continued research on methods of education. She was one of 20 women recipients during a ceremony organized by the Ministry of Women Affairs for the International Woman Day March 8, 2002.

International Woman Day Celebration - This event was organized by WFWP on March 11, 2002 and Dr. Elonea Perdomo of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, spoke to 100 guests at the National Library about "Women's Role in the Development of Culture."

Award Presentation - to WFWP for its social services to the handicapped during a rally attended by 1000 people.

AIDS Seminar - stressing the importance of family.

Bazaars - fundraising activity to support local service projects.

WFWP Library - opened in late April 2002; teacher was hired to help children with their homework.

Japanese NGO AAA Visit - during May to see the result of their clothing donations.

Foreign Language Classes - WFWP organized French and English classes as well as in Origami Creation since May.

2001 - 2002

Antigua & Barbuda

Activity Report from WFWP-Antigua & Barbuda



Pure Love Rallies - Promoting abstinence before marriage and fidelity within marriage. Visiting villages in Antigua in order to appeal for the importance of "Pure Love" for the prevention of HIV/Aids.

Ongoing Service Activities in Homes for the Elderly - Helping to make beds, clipping nails, serving and assisting to feed meals, teaching Origami, singing songs with them and so on...

Seminars for Community Leaders - to support them in their efforts to uplift and strengthen families.



Guatemala

Activity Report from WFWP-Guatemala

Monthly Meetings - for the education, spiritual enrichment and inspiration of the growing WFWP core group and for the planning and organization of upcoming service activities



Ongoing Service Projects - outreach mainly to the women in remote villages to supply them with basic necessities like soap, school supplies, milk and toys for their families and through the care and contact to uplift these women's lives.



Gathering the women in front of a health center.



WFWP Representatives visit patients in a Lepra Hospital.



Outreach to women in Vela Minas, a tiny village in the mountains.

Fundraising Projects - most service activities are maintained through local fundraising.



The WFWP Guatemala Core: Anna Villafuerte, Guadalupe de Marroquin, Dora Luz de Paniagua, Cristina de Morales, Ana Cu de Beza and Ulrike Bessell, WFWP President in Guatemala.

Statement: A Vital Element of Education, *continued from pg. 2*

arise when believers lose sight of the common values implicit in all religions and when their beliefs and practices consider only their own parochial interests and salvation.

There are a number of examples in human history when cruel massacres and holocausts were initiated. There is always a danger when not only religious fanatics but also ideological dogmatists have the power over every level of human family (in homes, communities, and nations.)

The first most important point for all of us as one human family is the need to understand, recognize and promote the value of each human life, free from any form of discrimination. This fundamental basis for peace is wholly upheld by the United Nations. To establish this most essential common understanding of the value of each person universally, there

needs to be “Education of character and values” right along side today’s secular education.

These values need to be integrated and consistently applied at all levels of society, from the individual level including parents and children, at the community level including politicians, school teachers, service organizations and so on as well as at national and international levels.

This education of character and values, as its first priority, should recognize our common origin, or the Supreme Being that is the foundation for universal principle and values. And universal principle and values should be able to transcend all the differences within the human family and connect us as one harmonious global family. It must certainly include the teachings of respect and honor toward life itself as well as respect and honor of the

diversities of religion, culture, gender and races.

“Education of Character and Values” is the key to preventing the destruction of human resource development. If we do not solidly prevent the destruction of human resources development, we, the human family can never achieve and maintain permanent world peace, which has been a long-cherished wish of the entire human family. As we implement education policies and practices that clearly enhance human development of body, mind *and* soul...through educating for academic excellence, skills excellence, and excellence of character, then the human family has a chance of achieving a world of peace.

To this end, the United Nations, especially UNESCO and NGOs with a special focus on education, have a great responsibility and need to work together hand in hand.



Reports of DPI / NGO Briefings, *continued from pg. 3*

Family and Aging: Opportunities and Challenges

The briefing on “Family and Aging: Opportunities and Challenges”, in Observance of the International Day of Families was held on May 16th, 200, from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon at the Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium United Nations, New York.

Speakers were: Mr. Mark Allen Belsey, former Program Manager, Maternal and Child Health, Family Planning, World Health Organization; Ms. Odile Frank, Chief, Social Integration Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and Ms. Helen Hamlin, Main Representative of the International Federation on Aging, Chair, NGO Committee on Aging. This Briefing was organized in cooperation with the Program on Family, Social Integration Branch of DESA and the NGO Committee on Aging. The International Day of the Families was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 47/237 on September 20th 1993. On May 15th, 2002, the eighth anniversary celebration of the International Year of the Family was observed.

Based on the speaker’s presentations, since 1950, life expectancy in the world has increased by 22 years to age 66, and is projected to extend by an additional 10 years by 2050. Global fertility levels decreased since the late 1970’s. These two trends caused the shift towards a higher median age, creating a phenomena of aging societies. The share of persons 60 years and older will increase from 10% currently to 21% in 2050. Care giving of older family members is a socially essential task that younger family members perform. Governments and societies have to respond to these important tasks by recognizing the important role that families play in caring for older family members.

Policy Suggestions:

Families must not be portrayed as social entities that only create costs for society. Families should be seen as the fundamental building block of society. Families should also be viewed in the context of the very important social functions that they provide, such as raising, socializing and educating the next generation, caring for the elderly, and providing a supportive environment to all family members. Older persons must be recognized for their social, economic and political contributions. Their

life experience can offer valuable approaches to various problems that the younger generations face.

After the presentations, the floor was opened for discussion/questions and answer. The briefing was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

DPI/NGO Communications Workshop: Demystifying Resource-Raising: Fund-Raising and Beyond

The Briefing on the “DPI/NGO Communications Workshop took place at the Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium on 6 June 2002 at the UN HQ in New York.

The morning session, which was focused on Fund-Raising was held from 10:30 am -12:00 noon. Mr. Mike McDermott, International Public Relations Counselor, Public Relations Society of America served as the moderator.

Speakers were: Ms. Judith Phair, Vice President for Public Affairs, Council of Competitiveness Ms. Deanna Pelfrey, President, Pelfrey Associates, Ms. Nina Streitl, Fellow Public Relations Society of America, and Mr. James Holtje, Account Supervisor, Brouillard Communications. The speakers presented to NGOs, several ways of increasing the organizations’ funds to support their activities on a continuous

Briefings, *continued on pg. 9*

“Women’s Role in Building World Peace through Non-Violence”, continued from pg. 5

Opening Session, chair Mme. Al-Mufti indicated the direction for discussions, stating, “We women should be peace makers.” The five main guidelines for dialog that she mentioned were: 1. Cooperation 2. Communication 3. Tolerance, 4. Accurate expression of feelings 5. Creative conflict resolution. She explained that we should cooperate to resolve issues, communicate clearly, serve others, and respect diversity. These elements become the factors for creating peace. Our children must be taught these skills. Those who could not learn and practice them often became victims of conflict. The world, which shares a common destiny, needs a new vision that can realize higher levels of cooperation.

Importance of Education for Women

In the First Session on “Women’s Role in Shaping Civil Society,” Dr. Naima Al-Shayji, Union of Kuwait Women Associations, served as moderator. Ms. Oya Talat, a Turkish Cyprian chemist from North Cyprus presented her paper, introducing the current state of the divided Cyprus. She stressed that the status of women in Cyprus is still low; however, without the active participation of women, an ideal society and strong families cannot be formed.

Next, Ms. Grace Moubarak, a lawyer from Lebanon, pointed out that women filled only 2% of the seats in the parliaments in Arabic nations, in general, and the status of women in society and politics is weak. She quoted the former UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali, who maintained that without promoting the status of women, there is no reform or prosperity. She stressed that education for women is vital, particularly the education of children in the home, which is

Briefings, continued from pg. 8

basis. Other speaker’s presentations were focused on the principles of effective and productive public relations.

The afternoon session took place in Conference Room B, UN Headquarters. The Session focused on *Finding Other Resources*. Moderators were Mr. Lester Wilson, Chair of the Communications Workshop Committee and Ms. Joan Levy, Member of the Communications Workshop Committee. Featured speakers included Chris Deri, Senior Vice President, Elderman Stakeholder Strategies, NY, Ms. Gilda Chirafisi, Rotary International, Ms. Patricia Hill Williams, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and Mr. Patrick Dciarratta, Friendship Ambassadors Foundation.



the first school.

Dr. Wafa Al-Mobaireek, from Saudi Arabia, noted that she faced a strong bias against Muslims when going overseas. She criticized the western media for exaggerating a negative image of Islam. Chair Al-Mufti stated that the UN is powerless in the resolution of conflicts, and that women should continue to cry for peace until the governments in the world are influenced.

Issues Surrounding Women

After a coffee break, the Second Session continued on the theme of “Equality, Respect, and Non-Violence in the Home and Society.” The first speaker was Dr. Asya Al-Lamky, Assistant Dean for Research and Post Graduate Studies, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. She introduced an awareness survey of working women in Oman. According to her, the status of women has advanced since 1997, when many women attained political posts. However, many women are struggling to balance the family and the work place.

Dr. Soad Fateem, educator from Egypt, presented a paper stressing the importance of fostering in children tolerance and acceptance that transcends race. Ms. Mirjana Abourahal from Lebanon referred to the message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and stated that peace comes from God, and is not realized without love. She reminded us that women in the Middle East do have a dream for true peace.

In the following discussion, some participants raised the point that the definitions of discrimination against women are different between the Arab world and the West. Dr. Al-Lamky mentioned that society has a tendency to undervalue the contribution made by women. Chair Al-Mufti pointed out that the 75% of Jordan’s women have jobs in order to support their families. Ms. Shelagh Shalev, President of the Jerusalem District Liberal Women’s Federation, Israel, suspected that women themselves may be the ones who discriminate against women the most, to which many agreed.

Action for Peace

The Third Session was on the “Various Causes of Violence and Women’s Response.” Mrs. Laila Barakat of Egypt emphasized in her speech that conflict resolution should be implemented in a peaceful way. She stressed the importance of dialogue between civilizations instead of conflict, and called



for women’s action in order to bring about peace in the Middle East. Dr. Maria Hadjipavlou, lecturer at the University of Cyprus, proposed that the peace-loving culture of women must be expanded in order to eliminate the violence that has taken the lives of over 13 million lives of women and children in the last 87 years.

In the following discussion, Ms. Roya Bozorgpour from Iran commented that those who profited the most from military expansion were the arms industries. Dr. Soad Fateem suggested not to use the term “enemy” from now on, that reform of our choice of words was also necessary in order to realize world peace. Dr. Dalia Steiner, President of WFWP Israel, editor and senior producer at Israel’s Channel One, emphasized that the time has come for this Conference to take concrete action for conflict resolution. Many other participants agreed when Ms. Oya Talat from Northern Cyprus also proposed to start a specific project for peace.

The Crete Declaration

Dr. Dalia Steiner from Israel stated in her presentation that conflict is the result of man separating from God. Conflict between mind and body of an individual is expanded into the family, society and nation. She introduced a plan to construct a “House of Peace,” a project to resolve conflict and realize peace. Dr. Amal Al-Zayani from Bahrain, then spoke on the backgrounds and types of conflicts.

Many expressed they felt a similar desire to take some kind of action. One of the three participants from Israel, Ms. Samira Rohana, a Israeli with Arab roots, explained about the discrimination in Israel against citizens like her.

Ms. Carolyn Handschin, WFWP’s UN liaison in Geneva and moderator of the session, suggested formulating a declaration and action plan, summarizing the participants’ views and the role of women in relation to peace in the Middle East, to which all agreed wholeheartedly.

WFWP 10th Anniversary

On April 10th, 2002, WFWP celebrated its tenth anniversary at the Little Angels Performing Arts Center in Seoul, Korea with two thousand participants, including representative from around the world.

Founder of WFWP, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon addressed the audience, saying, "WFWP was founded to lead the women's era and to play a pivotal role in the women's peace movement". She went on to say that, women are non-confrontational beings, they are not ones to confront men, but wish to be on an equal footing with men, helping and embracing one another with true love. For that reason, the role of women in realizing a peaceful world is very important. She added that the next ten years is an important period for harvesting the fruit of a peaceful, ideal world. So, individuals, families and nations should work to realize a world of true peace. The members present were asked to work hard with pride as a movement for the purification of love.

In her speech, International President Lan Young Moon said, "Last December, WFWP was approved for the next four years as an NGO in general consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. We have a firm foundation in the nation and internationally." She later stated, "On the foundation of our ten-year history, let's concentrate on service activity more and begin a time of reconciliation and cooperation for building a peaceful era of one global family."

Presidents Tetsuko Kuboki from Japan, Alexa Ward from the United States, Po Ya

International Youth Day, *continued from pg. 3*

groups. Youth will be directly involved in these plenaries. Issues to be discussed at the WSSD will include: water sanitation, energy, agriculture, biodiversity and health. The second week of the summit will be attended by heads of states. Other events will include: NGO Forum, Business Forum, Local Authorities Forum, as well as Science and Technology Forum. There will also be hundreds of events organized by youth groups. The cutting edge of development is at the community level and the youth can bring a unique contribution. In conclusion, Mr. Desai encouraged everyone to get




Award Presentation for Outstanding WFWP Chapters: from right Dr. Po Ya Chang, President of WFWP Taiwan; Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon; Mrs. Tetsuko Kuboki, President of WFWP Japan; Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, Vice President WFWP International, Director of UN Office.

Chang from Taiwan and Dae Wha Chung from Korea then conveyed greetings on behalf of their national chapters. Messages of congratulations were read from Vice President Annete Lu of Taiwan as well as from the first ladies, Lee Hee-ho of Korea, and the United States' Laura Bush.

One of the highlights of the entertainment, which followed, was a musical skit by the Kyeonggi Province branch which expressed WFWPI's determination to work hard in promoting their 1 % Project, a drive to get the world's people to donate a tiny

part of their income to help needy women and children. Initial recipients will be in North Korea.

During dinner, Ambassador K.C. Logeswaran of the Sri Lanka Embassy in Korea, wished WFWP success in all its endeavors and stated, "I am appreciative of the activities pertaining to building peace and reconciliation. In this, WFWP has, no doubt, a leading role to play in this century." Hon. Jae-kyu Park, former minister of the Korean government's Unification Ministry stressed that the role of women is important for establishing peace between South and North Korea."

Following dinner, continental representatives lit 160 candles, symbolic of the participation of people from all over the world in the 1% Project. Mrs. Hong Rae Kim, whose family defected from North Korea, lit candles representing the founders of WFWP. A hundred and sixty candles blazed clear and bright as if wishing Godspeed. 

Apologies & Corrections **Winter 2001-2002 Issue**

P4 Caption of photo correction from Mrs. Akiko Yamanaka, Symposium Coordinator to Ms. Mitsuko Horiuchi, Keynote Speaker.

Promoting Reconciliation and Peace-Building: NGO Roles and Experiences

Midday NGO Workshops
United Nations, New York - September 9-11, 2002

The Midday NGO Workshop took place from 1:15 -2:45 in various conference rooms, followed by afternoon session in Conference Room 4. All subsequent sessions (morning and afternoon) took place in Conference Room 4 for the next two days.

Titles of the subsequent sessions were: "Re-establishing the Rules of Law and Encouraging Good Governance" afternoon session on September 9, "Restoring Social Services: Identifying Priorities" morning session on September 10, "From Less than Zero: The Challenges of Rebuilding Economics" afternoon session on September 10, "Against the Odds, The Process of Reconciliation" morning session on September 11, and "Demobilizing the War Machines: Making Peace Last" afternoon session on September 11, followed by closing session.

WFWP International had five representatives attending the conference. Also WFWPI co-sponsored one of the Midday NGO Workshops with two other NGOs, Conflict Transformation Working Group and Fellowship of Reconciliation on September 11. The workshop was entitled "Promoting Reconciliation and Peace-building: NGO roles and Experiences." Mr. John Kim from Fellowship of Reconciliation USA as moderator, opened the Workshop with a moment of silent prayer for the victims and families of September 11th terrorist attack a year ago. There were four panelists from four different NGOs: Mr. Peter Davis from Saferworld, Rev. William Tolbert III from Inter-Religious Council of Liberia, Mr. Latif Hajrizi from Council for Peace and Tolerance of Mitrovica, Kosovo, and Prof. Lan Young Moon Park, International President of WFWP.

Mr. Davis from Saferworld emphasized that NGOs need to have more access to the Security Council of the UN to work more effectively. Rev. William from the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia shared his experiences (focusing efforts on inter-religious activities) in Liberia. Mr. Hajrizi



Prof. Moon Park is presenting her remarks on Sept 11, 2002 at the Midday NGO Workshop at the 55th DPI/NGO Conference, UNHQ

shared very insightful post-conflict experiences he had while working to make unity among seven different races in one community of Kosovo. Prof. Moon, WFWP International President shared how WFWP initiated the Bridge of Peace sisterhood movement starting from past enemy nations such as Korea and Japan and Japan and USA. She also spoke about her experiences as a refugee from North Korea during the Korean war. During recent visits to North Korea in 2001 & 2002 she learned to overcome feelings and develop compassion toward North Korea. Prof. Moon stated from her experience a starting point for any dialogue toward reconciliation requires opportunities to meet face to face and talk with each other and listen to each other. (Prof. Moon's whole speech will be posted on the website.)

Because it was the anniversary of September 11 and the General Assembly of the UN was opened, the security in Manhattan was very tight and many streets were closed. However, the 8th floor conference room of the UN Church Center where the workshop took place was almost full, with over 70 concerned and active NGO representatives.

Refreshments were provided by the co-sponsors. The participants had a very warm and friendly exchange with one another after the workshop.

(For more details on the 55th DPI/NGO Conference, please visit www.wfwp.org)



After the long day, the group enjoyed dinner at a restaurant with a beautiful view of the seaside. Miss Sue Nigoghossian, emcee from UAE welcomed the Japanese observers warmly with her newly-learned, "Yokoso (welcome)!" which drew a merry laugh. Mrs. Mirjana Abourahal from Lebanon initiated a dance and soon, everyone joined in on the floor. The women forgot the time and enjoyed the beautiful evening on the Island of Crete.

An End to Conflict

In the Fifth and Sixth Sessions of Day Three, participants divided into three groups and studied themes such as "leadership and responsibility," "ideal family relations," and "foundations for a peaceful society." Each group reported a summary of its discussion. Many expressed, for instance, that "leaders should have a spirit of service," and "leaders should bear responsibility for consequences."

The Seventh Session continued in the afternoon. Ms. Rana Taha, who works for the UN Institute of Disarmament Research in Geneva, introduced her grass-roots project called "People to People." She recommended that Israelis and Palestinians nurture trust through dialogue. As she described the situation of the Palestinians with tears, many were touched deeply.

In the discussion, Dr. Maria Hadjipavlou from Cyprus evaluated Ms. Taha's project highly and stressed the importance of grass-roots movements. Others stated that it was not enough to look only to the future to resolve the Palestinian problem, and that it was necessary to go back to the year 1948, when Israel established its nation, which reminded everyone of how complex the issue was.

In the Closing Session, Ms. Carolyn Handschin gave a summary of the conference pointing out that the peace-loving nature of women must be utilized to bring peace in the Middle East; and that peace begins with the individual and the family. Chair Al-Mufti said she felt the strong desire of the conference participants, to want to truly do something for peace.

Because a revision of part of the draft "Crete Declaration" was proposed, the drafting session continued after dinner and was completed with everyone's consensus very late that day. Following the heated discussions and the forming of new friendships during the three-day conference, the women parted, appreciating the support of WFWP Japan for the conference, and knowing a great task was ahead for them.



The Second Annual Forum on the Eradication of Poverty:

A Follow-up for the World Summit on Sustainable Development Building Partnership
between the UN and Civil Society

Monday, December 2, 2002
UN Headquarters, New York

Forum ♦ 2:00 - 6:00 pm Conference Room 4 Reception ♦ 6:00 - 8:00 pm Delegates Dining Hall
- \$30.00 Fee for Reception -

A World Fit for Us: Children's Forum Message

We are the world's children.

We are the victims of exploitation and abuse.

We are street children.

We are the children of war.

We are the victims and orphans of HIV/AIDS.

We are denied good quality education and health care.

We are victims of political, economic, cultural, religious and environmental discrimination.

We are children whose voices are not being heard: it is time we are taken into account.

We want a world fit for children, because a world fit for us is a world fit for everyone.

In this world,

We see respect for the rights of the child:

- governments and adults having a real and effective commitment to the principle of children's rights and applying the Convention on the Rights of the Child to all children,
- safe, secure and healthy environments for children in families, communities, and nations.

We see an end to exploitation, abuse and violence:

- laws that protect children from exploitation and abuse being implemented and respected by all,
- centres and programmes that help to rebuild the lives of victimized children.

We see an end to war:

- world leaders resolving conflict through peaceful dialogue instead of by using force,
- child refugees and child victims of war protected in every way and having the same opportunities as all other children,
- disarmament, elimination of the arms trade and an end to the use of child soldiers.

We see the provision of health care:

- affordable and accessible life saving drugs and treatment for all children,
- strong and accountable partnerships established among all to promote better health for children.

We see the eradication of HIV/AIDS:

- educational systems that include HIV prevention programmes,
- free testing and counselling centres,
- information about HIV/AIDS freely available to the public,
- orphans of AIDS and children living with HIV/AIDS cared for and enjoying the same opportunities as all other children.

We see the protection of the environment:

- conservation and rescue of natural resources,
- awareness of the need to live in environments that are healthy and favourable to our development,
- accessible surroundings for children with special needs.

We see an end to the vicious cycle of poverty:

- anti poverty committees that bring about transparency in expenditure and give attention to the needs of all children,
- cancellation of the debt that impedes progress for children.

We see the provision of education:

- equal opportunities and access to quality education that is free and compulsory,
- school environments in which children feel happy about learning,
- education for life that goes beyond the academic and includes lessons in understanding, human rights, peace, acceptance and active citizenship.

We see the active participation of children:

- raised awareness and respect among people of all ages about every child's right to full and meaningful participation, in the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- children actively involved in decision making at all levels and in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating all matters affecting the rights of the child.

We pledge an equal partnership in this fight for children's rights. And while we promise to support the actions you take on behalf of children, we also ask for your commitment and support in the actions we are taking because the children of the world are misunderstood.

We are not the sources of problems; we are the resources that are needed to solve them.

We are not expenses; we are investments.

We are not just young people; we are people and citizens of this world.

Until others accept their responsibility to us, we will fight for our rights.

We have the will, the knowledge, the sensitivity and the dedication.

We promise that as adults we will defend children's rights with the same passion that we have now as children.

We promise to treat each other with dignity and respect. We promise to be open and sensitive to our differences.

We are the children of the world, and despite our different backgrounds, we share a common reality.

We are united by our struggle to make the world a better place for all.

You call us the future, but we are also the present.

Meeting of Under 18 Delegates to the United Nations Special Session on Children
New York 5 7 May 2002

UN Special Session On Children: A World Fit for Children

Children, continued from pg. 3

quarters in NY, as well as approximately 250 supporting events sponsored by Governments, United Nations entities, NGOs and other international organizations held at the UN, UNICEF and a number of surrounding venues in NY. These events included panel discussions, presentations, caucuses, networking opportunities and more, all with the theme of improving the world for children or helping to empower children to lead. The topics ranged from health matters, to achieving gender parity, education, even promoting children's participation. WFWPI Representatives were in attendance at a number of the SSGA sessions.

Of particular note was the Children's Forum held at Manhattan Center in NY from May 5-7, 2002. The Children's Forum, facilitated by UNICEF, was attended by youth representatives of Governments and NGOs. These youths, all under the age of 18, came together to discuss their views of the world, ways that youth can make a difference and the proposed outcome document. The Children's Forum formulated a message that was delivered to the SSGA by two youth delegates on May 8, 2002. The message, "A World Fit For Us" is re-printed on page 12.

(The complete text of the SSGA outcome document, "A World Fit For Children" can be found on the UN website, www.un.org.)



3rd WFWPI Leader's Workshop Nov 15-20, 2002

Shonan International Village Kanagawa
Prefecture, Japan

Mrs. Lan Young Moon Park, WFWPI President, and Mrs. Tetsuko Kuboki, WFWP Japan President invite all WFWP Continental Vice Presidents, Secretary Generals, National Chapters Presidents and officers to this 3rd WFWPI Leader's Workshop.

Conference and a tour of the local activities of WFWP Japan.