



Women's Federation for World Peace International

Federation for World Peace International

United Nations Office Newsletter

Spring 2004

Globalization & Eradication of Poverty 3rd Annual Forum

December 5, 2003 - UN HQ, New York



The Third Annual Forum on the Eradication of Poverty: Globalization and the Eradication of Poverty was held on December 3, 2003, in Conference Room 1 UN HQ in NY, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations, co-sponsored and organized by Women's Federation for World Peace International. The Forum started at 2:00 pm.

Moderator of the Opening Session, Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, the Director of WFWPI, UN Office and VP of WFWP International opened the Forum. She introduced the representatives from 41 different national chapters of WFWPI attending the fourth WFWPI International Leaders Workshop following this conference from December 4-8, 2003. She also described this year's topic as very ambitious and complex. Yet she expressed confidence in the knowledge and abilities of the very brilliant and excellent panelists. The co-sponsors, **H.E. Mr. Philippe Chidumo**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations and **Prof. Lan Young Moon Park**, President of WFWP

International made welcoming remarks. Ambassador Chidumo expressed what a great honor to join with WFWPI, once again, in



H.E. Mr. Philippe Chidumo
Ambassador of Mozambique to the United Nations

sponsoring the Third Annual Forum on the Eradication of Poverty. This topic could not be timelier, in his view, because millions of citizens worldwide continue to suffer from absolute poverty. Total elimination of poverty continues to challenge our collective imagination. Eradication of Poverty in the context of globalization is an issue requiring concerted efforts by the international community at large. It is clear that the process of globalization provides enormous

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development opportunities. However, it is also clear that there is a potential danger that many of the benefits of this new revolution could simply pass by many developing countries if developed countries do not share enough resources, expertise, and new technologies with the developing world. Developing countries have the potential to participate successfully in the new global market. But first they need to be empowered and granted adequate resources, skills and technical abilities to enable them to eradicate the scourge of poverty, which



Professor Lan Y.M. Park
President, WFWP International

is one of the major impediments of their development. Ambassador Chidumo concluded by commending WFWPI for its

Eradication of Poverty, continued on pg. 8



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.**

Motoko Sugiyama
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At the UN in New York...

Reports of NGO Briefings

Maternal Health: Overcoming the Problem of Obstetric Fistula

DPI/NGO Briefing • October 9, 2003 - UN HQ, New York

By *Motoko Sugiyama*

The briefing on Maternal Health: Overcoming the Problem of Obstetric Fistula was held at UN HQ, NY. Mr. Paul Hoeffel, Chief of NGO Section of DPI, moderated the briefing. The speakers were: Dr. France Donnay, Chief Reproductive Health Branch, United Nations Population Fund, Dr. Catherine Hamlin, Founder and Director, Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, H.E. Ousmane Moutari, Permanent Representative, Mission of Niger to the UN.

The problem of Obstetric Fistula is neglected by governments so DPI and NGOs must address it. The way that Obstetric Fistula is being addressed is a good example of how the UN and NGOs work together. Obstetric

Fistula is a debilitating pregnancy-related condition caused by prolonged obstructed labor which ruptures the internal passages of the bladder and rectum. The new report: "Obstetric Fistula Needs Assessment" states that the number of women living with Fistula is estimated to be at least 2 million. This figure only reflects patients who seek treatment in a medical facility. In Nigeria alone there are an estimated 1 million women living with Fistula. 50 % of all pregnancies in Africa result in complications, the worst of which is Obstetric Fistula. The Fistula surgical repair has an average of 90% success rate and costs \$100 to \$400. Immediate prevention involves access to obstetric care and emergency medical care.

Maternal Health, continued on pg. 8

After Cancun (Mexico): New Opportunities?

DPI/NGO Briefing • November 6, 2003 - UN HQ, New York

By *Motoko Sugiyama*

The briefing, After Cancun: New Opportunities?, was held on November 6, 2003 at the UN HQ, NY. Mr. Paul Hoeffel, Chief of NGO Section of DPI moderated the briefing. The speakers were: Mr. Alain Frank, Director, External Relations Division, World Trade Organization (WTO), through a video conference from Geneva, Mr. A. Gopinathan, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Ms. Ditte Juul-Jorgensen, Counsellor, Delegation of the European Commission to the UN, Mr. Gawain Kripke, Senior Policy Advisor, OXFAM America.

During the Cancun WTO conference, the industrial countries and developing countries could not meet consensus, especially regarding the agricultural agenda. This setback shows

that the developed countries could not ignore the voice of the developing countries. The civil society of the developing countries made a difference. Equitability and fairness must be brought into the Roundtable discussions. There is a 21-developing countries group and a 19-developed countries group. There are differences between some of their long term and short term interests. The most important issue is poverty. Agriculture is central to the poverty issue because poverty is mainly in rural areas. Therefore, the discussions should really focus on this area. This briefing showed why the Cancun Round was not fruitful. It will take time to come to consensus between developed and developing countries because the interests of those countries are so different and so complex.

Towards Tunis: World Summit on Information Society

February 12, 2004

By *Merly Barete-Barlaan*

Speakers: Therese Gastaut, Director, Strategic Communications Division, DPI; H.E. Ali Hachani, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations; Sarah McCue, Senior Private Sector Specialist, The World Bank; Richard Jordan, Special Project Director, International Council for Caring Communities; Moderated by Mr. Paul Hoeffel, Chief of DPI/NGO Section

The power of the Internet is accessed by millions of people. However, it is crucial to educate those who are unaware of the internet, as well as to provide a free portal to the internet for those who can't afford it. This access will create educational opportunities and more. NGOs and civil society can use Information

and Communication Technologies (ICT) and the internet to create peace, development and justice as well as bring greater connectivity within the developing world. Barriers to access to technology are referred to as the digital divide. Economics, gender, language and culture are all factors in the digital divide.

The basic goals of the Plan of Action, adopted during the first phase of WSIS in Geneva are to promote the use of ICT-based products, networks, services and applications, and to help countries overcome the digital divide. These can be realized through the cooperation and solidarity of governments and all stakeholders. The Plan of Action is an evolving platform to promote the information society at the national level, regional level, and international level.

National Holiday of Mozambique

Reception • September 25, 2003



President of Republic of Mozambique, H.E. Mr. Joaquim Alberto Chissano and Ms Motoko Sugiyama, Director UN Office, Vice-President of WFPW International at the Delegate Dining Hall of UNHQ New York for the Reception of the National Holiday of Mozambique on September 25, 2003

UN Reform Initiatives: High Level Panel in Global Security Threats, Challenges and Change

DPI/NGO Briefing • January 29, 2004 - UN HQ, New York

By Merly Barete-Barlaan

Speakers: Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations; Mr. Stephen Stedman, Research Director, High Level Panel on Security Threats, Challenges and Change; Mr. Kraus, Executive Vice President, Citizens for Global Solutions; Moderated by Mr. Paul Hoeffel, Chief of DPI/NGO Section.

Collective security for all must be the priority. However, threats in the world are diverse. Therefore, reform initiatives should be based on this reality. The main issue of reform is the strengthening of multilateral issues/multilateral institutions. Also, we need to find middle ground on social and economic issues. On the question of reform, we need to work in a system for which we share responsibility. Practices that are known to be obsolete need to be abandoned. The United Nations does not belong only to member-states any longer, there are NGO's and other actors involved. It was recommended that a review be conducted of the principles of the organs of the UN based on national security, human security, as well as economic and social issues. UN emergency peace service should be composed of military and civilians to protect the vulnerable more effectively. Civil society has the responsibility to craft an effective 21st century UN reform. Without ownership participation of NGOs, the panel's resolution for reform will not be effective. During discussions, the need to involve more women in the peace and reform process was brought up. The importance of education, including peaceful conflict resolution skills and valuing the process of arriving at nonviolent solutions to problems was stressed.

Maternal Health, continued from pg. 2

Panelist, Dr. Catherine Hamlin is an Australian doctor who went to Ethiopia from England for a medical mission in 1959. She encountered the Obstetric fistula problem and eventually founded a special hospital for Fistula patients in 1974. She has trained five doctors to perform the surgery to correct Fistula. Eventually, with the help of her husband and funds from Australia, she established more hospitals in Ethiopia. Although she is now over 80 years old, every year she does 1500 surgeries to correct Fistula, but it's not enough. More specialized fistula surgeons are needed. Because the patients are so poor, governments should provide more specialized hospitals dedicated to treating fistula.

World Food Day

October 17, 2003

By Motoko Sugiyama

World Food Day is October 16th each year. The celebration of 2003 World Food Day was sponsored by the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), Dr. Jacques Diouf on Friday, October 17, 2003. The Ceremony was in UN HQ NY Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium followed by a reception at the Express Bar, 3rd floor of the General Assembly building. The theme was "Working Together for an International Alliance against Hunger". A worldwide team for the International Alliance against Hunger was launched.

Ms. Florence Chenoweth, Director of FAO emceed the event. First, H.E. Mr. Gert Rosenthal, President of ECOSOC, made a statement recognizing the great collaboration between FAO and ECOSOC as they worked on the High Level Segment of 2003. He explained that this High Level Segment focused on poverty eradication through agricultural development in rural areas.

A video talk by Mrs. Nane Annan, wife Sec.Gen. Kofi Annan followed. Mrs. Annan expressed special concern for the hunger issue. She stated strongly that access to food is a basic human right. After the video there was an interactive dialogue between school children from Zimbabwe and the Tapori Movement in New York, moderated by Dr. Margaret Varma of the ATD Fourth World Movement.

H.E. Mr. Julian R. Hunte, President of the 58th Session of the General Assembly read Secretary General Kofi Annan's message, which stressed the importance of accomplishing the MDGs in order to reduce poverty by at least half by 2015.

The next speaker was Queen Noor of Jordan. She expressed the importance of working together against hunger. She congratulated the launch of the International Alliance against Hunger. Dr. Diouf stated that more food is produced now than any other time in history. If food was distributed equally to all mankind, there would be no hunger. We must come to the international consensus to end hunger and poverty, together as human family. Today's launch of the International Alliance against Hunger is significant because governments alone cannot achieve the elimination of hunger. They need partnership with groups on the national level, the private sector, and private firms. Two thirds of poor people live in rural areas. Women run the majority of small farms. Therefore, uplifting the status of women is essential to eliminating hunger. Dr. Diouf reminded us that 100 million people don't have enough food.

Approximately 200 people attended the ceremony. Director General Diouf invited the representatives from NGOs and civil society, the Missions and organizations of UN system to the reception to exchange friendship and concerns about this very important issue. It was a good opportunity for people concerned about eradicating hunger to meet together. Significant awareness was raised among the NGO representatives that we really need to work together as one human family to eliminate hunger from the world.

Obstetric Fistula has been a hidden issue. The first UN report on Fistula was launched in June 2003. Because fistula negatively impacts daily lives of millions of women, it is important that NGO representatives are educated about this highly preventable and treatable condition.

An NGO representative stated very strongly that safe motherhood is the most important issue facing humankind because mothers are the ones who bring life to the world. How this problem is faced reflects how we value safe childbirth for all women.

At the UN in Geneva ... Human Security, Women and Disarmament

Annual Seminar to Mark International Women's Day
March 10-11, 2004 Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Since 1984, International NGOs accredited to the UN have held an annual Seminar to Mark Women's Day at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on issues related to peace and disarmament. The Organizing Committee included the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Women's Federation for World Peace, International (WFWPI), Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS), International Council of Jewish



Women (ICJW), NGO Working Group on Peace-Geneva (WG), International Peace Bureau (IPB) and the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNOG) in Geneva.

Celebrating its 21st session, on March 10-11, 2004, this year's theme was 'Human Security, Women and Disarmament'. Military preparedness as a deterrent to actual warfare is being rethought. There is a growing need to prioritize the economic, social and psychological aspects of security that touch the everyday lives of people and to address root causes of conflict.

The Women's Day Seminar traditionally prepares an NGO statement to be read at the Conference on Disarmament's public session, which remains, until this day, the sole

intervention from civil society allowed during its deliberations.

The conference was opened by Ms. Edith Ballentyne and Ms. Krishna Patel, WILPF former President and current President. The morning session was chaired by Carolyn Handschin, WFWPI Deputy Director U.N. Office. First presentation was by H.E. Naela Gabr, Ambassador of Egypt and former Personal Assistant to Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, First Lady of Egypt. Mrs. Gabr cited many examples of women making a difference in human rights, social and developmental issues and of the role that women have played in her own country. As a Committee member for CEDAW, she also emphasized the importance of women helping other women to advance and gave the example of Mrs. Mubarak's NGO network, 'Women for Peace'.

The second speaker was Dr. Aleya Elbindari Hammad, former Executive Director at the WHO for Health Policy and Development. She spoke of the evolution of the threat to human security and the imperative that the threat be faced by security through development and that security must include all people everywhere. Her work on the Commission on Women's Health helped to redefine health security as covering the entire



life span and taking into consideration quality of life. She gave credit to the lives of various women who have been committed to peace, often at great personal risk. This led her to co-found with Mrs. Mubarak the Women's International Peace Movement which has now been launched in Geneva.

Ambassador Amina Mohamed from Kenya, the recent president of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) was also a panelist. It was during her tenure as president that a significant breakthrough for NGO's was negotiated. She insisted, however, on sharing credit with her predecessors for that accomplishment.

Mrs. Handschin closed the morning session by reminding us that no culture of peace can



be constructed under the threat of weapons, nor without promise of other fundamental human freedoms being respected. As teachers breaking up a school fight or parents trying to restore harmony between siblings, the first act is automatically to disarm the combatants. The breakthrough in landmine legislation, although negotiated in the CD, gained momentum and resolve as the well-publicized effects of these indiscriminate weapons on real lives raised an outcry from people the world over. This same shaping of public policy by moral imperative is possible in other domains if NGOs take up the issues with the same passion.

UN in Geneva, continued on pg. 8

Defending the UN: What Every NGO Should Know

Communications Workshop • Feb. 19, 2004

By Merly Berete-Barlaan

Speakers: Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General for Communication and Public Information (Moderator); Ambassador Kishore Mahbubani, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations; Gilian Sorensen, Senior Advisor, United Nations Foundation; Ambassador William Luers, President, UNA-USA

The UN is under the scrutiny of the world more than ever. Success stories about the UN are not usually given media attention. NGOs need to learn about the successes of the UN and its organs (WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, etc.) and let the world know about them. Because there are critics of the UN, NGOs and civil

society should educate themselves about the UN and take responsibility to educate others. The United Nations agenda is not just peacekeeping and Security Council. Peacekeeping is only 20% of the UN's agenda. The UN agenda includes: Development, Disarmament, Democratization, Human Rights, Humanitarian Relief, Environmental Action, Reproductive Health, AIDS, etc. UN is an organization of world governments.

Clarification was given that the Security Council is composed of representatives from 15 governments. There are permanent and nonpermanent member states. Whatever decision that the Security Council makes is a reflection of the members of the SC, not the

whole UN. The Security Council has enormous power. It has the power to save or abandon a nation. It is important to understand how the Security Council process works.

The third world expects the UN to solve the poverty problem. Ironically, if the UN belongs to the people of the world, then it should be the source of hope for people. In reality, governments are discussing their own national interests at the UN. The UN is the best place for America and other developed nations to show the world that their interests are global and not just focused on their own countries. With the help of NGOs, the UN can fulfill the vision of its founders.



At the UN in Bangkok ...

By Delia Javanasundars

International Women's Day

On March 7, 2003, representatives of WFWP-Thailand attended the International Women's Day meetings at United Nations Conference Centre. The program included:

Opening session

Statement of the Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan delivered by Dr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP Statement by UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Robert England

Exhibitions: Gender Equality and MDG's by UN agencies, Women in Chinese Art

Keynote address by Ms. Panit Nitithaanprapas, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, The Royal Thai Government

Panel discussion on "Gender Equality and Millennium Development Goals"

World Water Day

On March 21, 2003, WFWP-Thailand attended the observance of World Water Day. The program was on "Water for the Future". Welcoming remarks were from Director of the Environment and Sustainable Development Division, Mr. Ravi Sawhney

Panel I - Water: Historical Aspects

Panel II - Water: Appreciation and Action

Discussion by water providers

Dr. Mohammed Mussa, Deputy Regional Director for Asia, CARE International

Mr. Jergens Weyanb, Head of Regional Delegation, Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for South East Asia.

Official Presentation of Peace Bell to UN ESCAP by Rotary International

Video Presentation "Water: A Drop of Life" produced by Swynk Productions

The Future of Water - Climate Change by Dr. Pak Sum Low, Regional Advisor on Environment and Sustainable Development, UN ESCAP.

Panel III - Water: Care and Conservation

Discussion by youth groups

Special Theme: "Holy Water" an interfaith perspective on the role of water: Buddhism, Christianity and Islam

International Day of Families

Women's Federation for World Peace, Thailand, together with other NGOs, organized a 1-day seminar on "Our Family: Empowerment and Development" May 14, 2003, at United Nations Convention Center to commemorate the International Day of Families. Approximately 380 participants attended from Government Agencies, NGOs, as well as scholars and students. The Opening Plenary Session began with greetings by Emeritus Prof. Pradit Charoenthaitawee, of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand and Mrs. Panida Duangchinda, Vice President of WFWP-Thailand. Opening Remarks by Gen. Saiyud Kerdphol, President, Foundation for Development and Peace followed. United Nations Information Service representative, Mr. Kittisak Vardhanabhuti, Associate Information Officer of UNIS read a Statement from Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan. Dr. Christopher B. Kim gave the Keynote Address, "Healthy Families, Healthy Nations". Guest Speaker, Mr. Gerrold Huguet, Chief of the Population and Social Integration Section, Emerging Social Issues Division spoke about "Family Development and Empowerment". Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vajiraya Buasri, Advisor to WFWP-Thailand chaired the session on "How to Build a Happy Family". The speakers included Hon. Sophon Suphapong, Senator, Dr. Prawate Dr. Prawate

Tantiwitanaskul, Director, Bureau of Mental Health Technical Development and one representative from youth, Ms. Uaploy Ployphanit, 1st Runner up of Miss University 2002 and Thammasat University student. This conference was a starting point for closer cooperation between government and NGOs to empower and develop families.

International Day of Peace

On September 19, 2003, at United Nations Convention Center representatives from WFWP-Thailand participated in the UN observance of International Day of Peace. Keynote address, "Peace and Development" was by Past Rotary International President 2002-2003, Bhichai Rattakul, former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand. Roundtable "The UN Decade of the Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World 2001-2010: Where Do We Go From Here?" Mr. Sheldon Shaeffer, Director UNESCO, Prof. Dr. Vithit Muntarbhorn, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University and Mr. Bo Viktor Nylund, Regional Planning Officer for Emergency, UNICEF. Debate by university students, topic: "Non violence has powerful potential for personal and collective action and is the path of choice in conflict prevention and resolution", was chaired by Dr. Xiomara de Arrocha Ambassador of Panama and Dr. Malama Meleisea, Regional Advisor for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO, Bangkok

Peace Bell rung by Rotary District 3350 Governor, Dr. Saowalak Rattanavich

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

WFWP-Thailand participated in the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observance held at the United Nations Conference Center on Friday, 17 October 2003. The Day was declared by the UN as the day to observe and promote awareness about the need to fight poverty and the unequal distribution of development throughout the world. A message from the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan was read. He emphasized that the aim of United Nations is to reach the Millennium Development Goal – of halving by 2015 the proportion of people who live on less than a dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

... halving by 2015 the proportion of people who live on less than a dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Millennium Development Goal

At the UN in Beirut, Lebanon ...

WFWP Lebanon President Mirjana Abourahal attended a two day conference in June 2003 presented by World Movement of Mothers, a movement based in France. The Conference was held at the UN in Beirut (ESCWA building). Concerns about motherhood and its role were discussed. The goals and aims of the meeting were parallel to WFWP's aims. Motherhood as a universal experience that transcends all barriers: ethnic, religious, social or any other prejudice was the main idea communicated. We shared experiences and ignited friendships with women of various religious, ethnic and racial backgrounds. Participants included 60 mothers from France and 90 Lebanese mothers.

On December 1st and 2nd, 2003 WFWP was invited by the U.N. to participate in the first meeting for all NGOs in the Middle East, held at the Lebanon ESCWA building. This was a workshop concerning negotiations, links and relations among all NGOs from the Middle East. The discussions involved how to overcome obstacles and break down communication barriers, as well as better prepare and train members. Facing these issues aids NGOs in discussing and therefore finding solutions for problems as they arise. Mrs. Randa Berri was named as President of the NGOs for the Middle East by ESCWA

Activities Around the World in 2003

Europe

Annual Regional Conference

“Creating a Sustainable Culture of Peace: Education for Peace, The Role of the UN and Civil Society, The Status of Women”

September 12-14, 2003 - Bergen ann Zee, Holland

By Elizabeth Reidl

The conference consisted of four plenary sessions as well as forums with guest speakers. The first plenary session was presented by Mrs. Tina Coombs, a WFWPI Vice President.

Her talk described our current historical chance to contribute actively as women in Building the Culture of Peace. The second plenary session was on reconciliation. Two presentations were given about WFWP's signature reconciliation project, Sisterhood Ceremonies. Nobuko Bruins, Pres. of WFWP Netherlands, reported about their recent Inter-religious Sisterhood Ceremony between Muslims and Christians. Christine Sato, WFWP Germany, reported on the Sisterhood Ceremony between German and Jewish women. This was followed by Social Services / Humanitarian Aid reports on two projects. Rosewitha Johansen, WFWP Norway, spoke about Aid to Estonia, and



Fiona Hawlin, WFWP Austria informed us about The Albania Project. In the third plenary session, Ingrid Lindemann, Pres. of WFWP Germany presented a position paper on “The Dignity of Women”. In Session 4, International and European NGO Activities were presented. Marcia de Abreu Pres. of WFWP Spain spoke about networking activities and projects in Barcelona. Carolyn Handschin, Deputy Director, United Nations Office reported about her work in Geneva at the UN and with the Working Group on Peace, as well as disarmament issues. Ann Schaffner, WFWP European Secretary General also spoke.

Guest speaker, Mrs. Eva Latham, the President of Human Rights Teaching International gave us interesting insights into the work of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who was instrumental in the formation of the United Nations. The final Forum was on the topic: “Building a Sustainable Culture of Peace - Implementing the Millennium Development Goals”. Guest speaker, Mr. Asger Ryhl, Chief of the UNFPA Nordic Office gave a very informative and educational talk; “The United Nations/Civil Society, Women's Rights/ Empowerment of Women, and the Role of the UNFPA”. (Full text of Mr. Ryhl's talk is available at website www.wfwp.org). The final session was on “Reconciliation as a Basis for Creating a Sustainable Culture of Peace”.

Uruguay

Feb. 25 Meeting - Initiation of the year 2003.

March 8 WFWP president published the article “Celebrating Woman's Day” in the news paper “Ultimas Noticias”.

April 5, April 15-16, May 3, May 10-17, May 24-31 Seminars – “Character Education and Family Values.”



May 2. Visit by WFWP Secretary General Rosy Giuliano from Argentina

May 10. Bazaar – Fundraising project

May 11 “Mother's Day” – Donation to the Policewomen's office

August 20 Tea party fundraiser.

Sep 13 Bazaar - Fundraising project

Sep. 18 - Donation – Used clothes to the Policewomen's office

Donation received from the members of WFWP in Japan.

Sep. 21 Meeting with Mr. Julio Badano from an NGO organization.

Sep. 22 Concert and Tea party sponsored by the American Embassy Women - Club Uruguay.

Oct. 23 Tea party and Conference by the Paraguayan ladies – Uruguay Club.

Oct. 31 WFWP welcomed WFWP representative from Chile, Mrs. Gloria Valenzuela. (Awarded Outstanding WFWP Volunteer in Chile)

Mrs. Yoko Tamaoki from Japan gave a donation of \$2,000 to Uruguayan ladies; Mrs. Raquel Chape and Mrs. Amadeu.

Nov. 1 Ceremony to present “Society Diamond's Award”, President of WFWP introduced commissioning of the award. 1400 people in attendance.

Nov. 8 Bazaar – fundraising project .



USA



WFWP USA hosts the 4th WFWP International Leaders Workshop
December 4-9, 2003 in New York

Activities Around the World in 2003

Mozambique

For three weeks in August 2003, Audrey Short, daughter of WFP Southern California Membership Chair Kazue Short, volunteered as



a teacher at the Escola Secundaria de Sol de Mocambique in Manga, Beira. The school is a project founded and funded by WFP volunteers. Working closely with the head English teachers of the school, Ms. Short, an



experienced public school teacher from New York, assisted with language instruction through cultural exposure, conversation practice and test preparation.

Ms. Short began her introductory lessons by eliciting knowledge from the students of the English speaking world. Though Mozambique borders several English speaking countries, the students seemed more familiar with news from the U.S.A. They were quick to comment on Arnold Schwarzenegger's run for governor of California and interested in learning more about the foreign policy positions of the Bush administration. While their exposure to world



news was often limited to the daily Beira newspaper which was taped to the walls of the school canteen, the students demonstrated a sincere concern and curiosity for what was happening outside their community.

In addition, local issues led to lively discussions as the students expressed serious preoccupation over education, employment, and AIDS. While bright-eyed and diligent in their studies, many students articulated cynicism regarding their future after high school, recognizing that only a few would be able to attend Eduardo Mondlane University, the only comprehensive public institution of higher learning in the country, located in the relatively expensive capital city,



Maputo. While Beira is home to a teacher's college, students not interested in pursuing pedagogy did not feel like they had many options. Employment opportunities looked dim, and several students expressed their fears of becoming street vendors after completing 12 years of schooling. On the topic of AIDS, students seemed to understand both preventative measures and consequences of careless intimate relations. However, with a sense of hopelessness about the future and a lack of interesting entertainment offered by the community, some students admitted to engaging in risky behavior and were



conscious of their participation in this game of Russian roulette.

Despite a certain fatalism that entered several conversations, the students demonstrated an eagerness to learn and develop themselves in the classroom. They actively participated in lessons, even when as many as five students had to share one textbook, and they appreciated the opportunity that they had to study in a small and welcoming school environment. Often making comparisons to the nearby overcrowded public school, the students at Sol de Mocambique took pride in their tight-knit community, boasting about their teachers, classes, and learning. Not once did Ms. Short hear a Mozambican student seriously complain about being in school or having a lot of homework to do. Conversely, the students expressed appreciation for the

Ivory Coast, West Africa

Mrs. Gloria Cecilia Doumbia

MARCH – MAY: AIDS Prevention conferences given in Girls Institutes called IFEF in Abidjan (participation of 700 students and 100 teachers).

MAY 25: Mother's Day Ceremony of Sharing: USD \$200 Grants were presented to 13 ladies who suffered during Ivory Coast's civil war conflicts.

JUNE: Visit to Ivory Coast's Ambassador in Japan by Japanese WFP volunteers who work in C.I. As a result of the visit, the Minister of Foreign Affaires encouraged us to do whatever we could to help the Japanese WFP volunteers advance their aid work.

JULY: A Donation (valued at US \$100) of 200 kg. of rice was given to AIPHEP Children's Handicapped School in Abidjan.

10 ladies participated in several teacher trainings about AIDs prevention.

AUGUST 25: Donation of \$800 USD in medicines for first aid at Miegu

Handicapped School run by Catholic sisters who received refugees of war. The school is in the 2nd largest city in Ivory Coast, Yamousoukro.

Future and Ongoing Projects

- Continue with Aids Prevention programs.
- Vaccinate children.
- Educate rural nurses on prenatal care.
- Build a primary school.
- Peace festival.

Mozambique, continued ...

opportunity to study in such a positive learning environment and for the most part, welcomed the challenges that their teachers presented to them. While the students of Sol de Mocambique were also like many other teenagers who like to joke around and test limits of authority, they did not often cross the line of respect between teacher and student, making it relatively easy to manage a class of 50 even with very limited resources.

Needless to say but worthy of emphasizing, the Escola Secundaria de Sol de Mocambique has generously contributed to the positive formation of nearly 3000 young people in the Beira since its creation in 1995. While it is off to a very good start, the school is in need of more resources. Ms. Short has begun a collection of books to send to the school, many of which have been donated by local libraries, and urges others to do the same in order to help in the development of the future leaders of this southern African nation.

Eradication of Poverty, continued from pg. 1

important activities in the field of eradication of poverty in many countries including his own country, Mozambique. He wished that the day's forum would bring successful deliberation and positive contributions addressing the issue of globalization and poverty eradication.

Prof. Lan Young Moon Park also expressed that it is a great honor to co-sponsor the forum again with the Mission of Mozambique. She stated that every government organization is founded by its own interests. In one way or another, these self-interests must be transcended. This is where the NGOs can and must play a major role in building a peaceful global village. She quoted from a UNICEF poster dated September 2001, among the 2.1 billion children in the world, 1 out of 12 children die before age 5 and 1 out of 3 children suffer from malnutrition. She quoted Mr. Mark Brown, the head of UNDP, that today; the world has more inequality and is less secure than ever. We live in a world of 6 billion. One billion own 80 percent of the wealth, while another billion struggle to survive on less than a dollar a day. Her conclusion was that we are all brothers and sisters under God so how can we just ignore the suffering and misery of our brothers and sisters in the world? Even if we only have a little, as the Korean saying goes, if we share happiness, it will double and multiply, if we share suffering we can reduce it by half. We know about the joy of sharing and feel this in our original nature. Sharing just has to be practiced.

After the opening session ended, the forum began, moderated by **H.E. Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury**, Under-Secretary General, Office of the High Representative for the Least

Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) for the United Nations. Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Chowdhury greeted first by saying that he is



H.E. Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury
Under Secretary-General
OHRLLS in the UN

very honored and very happy to be a moderator for this important forum. His office is the one which really focuses on this issue, particularly in the most critical regions of the world.

The four topics for the forum are as follows; Globalization and Gender Perspective, addressed by Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and Ms. Yvette Stevens, Director, Office of Under-Secretary-General, Special Advisor on Africa. The second topic, Globalization and the Role of NGOs was addressed by Ms. Erinah Rutangye, President of WFPW Uganda, and Mr. Bekele Geleta, the Deputy Head of Delegation, Deputy Permanent Observer of the International Federation Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to the United Nations. The third topic, Globalization and the Role of Government was addressed by Dr. Thomas Ward, Vice President of University of Bridgeport, Dean of International College and Prof. Omotayo R. Olaniyan, Adviser on

Economic Affairs of the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations. The fourth topic, Globalization and the Fight against Poverty was addressed by Ms. Florence Chenoweth, Director, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), New York.

Ms. Noeleen Heyzer from UNIFEM stated that while the debates continue around the nature and impact of globalization, there are some essential ways it is transforming life in



Ms. Noeleen Heyzer
Executive Director, UN Development Fund for Women

the 21st century. In the era of globalization, decisions made in New York, London or Bangkok have a dramatic impact on life chances of faraway people, even remote rural villages. Globalization brings opportunity and risks, creating winners and losers. There is growing recognition that globalization concentrates gains among more affluent groups and nations and losses among the poorer groups and nations. She covered three main points in her presentation: globalization and gender discrimination, globalizations & women's employment and feminization of poverty. She concluded by saying that UNIFEM believes that success of the MDGs will depend on placing women's human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment at the center of strategy to address all eight of

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The afternoon session was opened by Ms. Edith Balantyne, who spoke about the beginnings of this seminar that she was so instrumental in initiating 21 years ago. She mentioned the scarce representation of women to the CD since its creation. The first woman ambassador to the CD from Sweden was the only woman present for years. Mrs. Patel introduced the first speaker, Dr. Kuniko Inoguchi, Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament. Her paper was on 'Gender, Disarmament and Reconciliation'. As former Gender Advisor to the Prime Minister as well as Chairperson of the 'United Nations 1st Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms and Light Weapons', Mrs. Inoguchi pointed out that disarmament must be pursued in as multi-dimensional context with reconciliation at its core, an element that is often missing with the human security perspective. She cited several examples of Japan's joint projects with UNDP that focus

on a participatory, bottom-up approach by offering incentives that benefit the whole community- like funding children's hospital or schools- as incentive for the surrender of weapons. The role of women in such programs has been instrumental.

The final speaker of the day was Ms. Camilla Waszink from the International Committee of the Red Cross, who described aspects of the 'Women and War Project' and their newer, 'Mines and Small Arms Project'. Her expertise in the area of international humanitarian law and weapons collections and destruction. She gave examples of how the ICRC has worked with the local communities and women in particular and challenged some of the standing gender-related statistics.

Participants from the seminar attended a reception hosted by the Mission of Malaysia to celebrate its presidency in the CD. Ambassador Rajmah Houssain, also a woman, welcomed the women NGOs and apologized

that the process to open the CD to NGO input and expertise was still so cautious.

The 2nd day of the seminar, the participants attended the CD session in which the Women's Day Seminar Statement was read. As chairperson of the CD, Ambassador Houssain affirmed the statement and the historic role of women in issues of peace and disarmament. Speaking as Malaysian Ambassador, she delivered an invitation to the CD from the mayor of one of the Japanese cities annihilated by atomic bombs at the end of WWII. While visiting Japan to deliver an address at an anniversary of that unprecedented devastation, she was struck deeply by the city's museums dedicated to the memory of the unimaginable suffering caused by that devastation. She suggested that accepting the invitation to hold the next session of the CD in this city so graphically indicative of the failure of disarmament negotiations, may be just the incentive that this body needs to restart after its years of inactivity and deadlock.

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the MDGs. (Please refer to the whole text of Ms. Heyzer's speech at www.wfwp.org)

Ms. Yvette Stevens expressed that globalization cannot be stopped. Globalization could have positive and negative impact, and it has the potential to address poverty eradication.



Ms. Yvette Stevens
Director for Africa, Office of the
Special Advisor on Africa of the UN

She focused on Africa in the context of the globalized world. Evidence shows that Africa has not fared well in the globalized world. The available statistics revealed the following: Africa's share of world exports declined from 3.5 % in 1970 to 1.5 % in the late 1990s. Imports in the same period declined from 4.5 % & to 1.5%. The decline in exports over the last 3 decades represents an income loss of \$68 Billion US annually (equivalent to 21 % of GDP). G7 agricultural subsidies of \$350 billion US a year are 25 times the total of ODA that goes to Africa. Globalization affects men & women differently. Women, as a whole, are more adversely affected by globalization than men. However, empirical studies need to be done to ascertain the impact of globalization from the gender perspective. Ms. Stevens continued with the topic of gender and economy in Africa. Women in Africa are disadvantaged with regard to access to land, capital financial services, micro-credit, education and skills training, as well as technology. Africa is significantly under represented and marginalized in the current global knowledge economy. Within Africa, particularly women carry heavier burdens of marginalization as they represent a majority of the poor and illiterate. She also addressed the topics of gender and trend, gender and technology and gender and migration. There is an increase of women migrating out of the continent. This is a result of an increase in poverty, lack of access to formal labor and economic and political changes, increasing the number of women seeking work overseas or in other areas of their countries. This phenomenon has been exploited by those involved in trafficking in people, and sex slavery has now become an issue to be addressed.

NEPAD, the New Partnership for Africa Development was formed in the face of growing global consensus about core values such as good governance and African ownership. It earned warm endorsement from the international community, including the UN as a creation through Africa's own

initiative, and it holds the promise of transforming Africa's development prospects. NEPAD is Africa's comprehensive development initiative to chart a new self-defined course for Africa's development. It aims to reverse Africa's current marginalization trend in globalization and eradicate poverty by entering into a new enhanced partnership between Africa and the rest of the world. Ms. Stevens really hopes that the opening of the NEPAD process, which prioritizes the predicament of African women, will succeed. She concluded that globalization has an important role to play in poverty eradication, provided the right policies are put in place to mitigate its negative effect. Through NEPAD, African women should be provided with a greater means to contribute to their country's economy and thus to the eradication of poverty. This would have to involve addressing the long-standing issues which have affected women's productivity in Africa.

Ms. Erina Rutangye used her experience in Uganda to define poverty. In many countries in Africa the necessities include: clean and safe



Ms. Erina Rutangye
President, WFWP of Uganda

drinking water, sufficient nutritious food, energy for cooking food and lighting, good shelter, adequate clothing and bedding, school fees, etc. She expressed that even simple things taken for granted elsewhere such as sugar, salt and matches are not easily available to almost 35% of families of Uganda. In spite of abundant natural resources such as fertile land, abundant surface water, and climate quite suitable for agriculture, many families in Uganda still live in poverty. According to the most recent World Bank survey, about 35% of 24 million Ugandans live on less than 1 US dollar a day. This is however, a remarkable drop of 51% about ten years ago. One of the major causes of this persistent poverty is lack of sufficient knowledge and practical skills on how to use the available resources profitably and sustain them. She shared the experience of WFWP Uganda's concentration on poverty eradication. In 1994, WFWP Japan sent 10 volunteers to Uganda. Joint efforts focused on the following areas:

1. Emancipation of Women,
2. HIV/AIDS education and counseling,
3. Education on family values and sisterhood among women,
4. With the help of WFWP Japan, schools were founded.

These schools are, The Kizinda Parents Vocational High School, The Katwe Parents

Nursery and Primary School, Trinity Preparatory School and Peace High School. The schools serve several hundred students. Skills training and basic primary education for the orphans and poor families is provided. Peace High School is especially for disadvantaged girl children. Since 1995, WFWP has focused on helping people build better quality of life through food and nutrition programs, energy conservation program, and zero grazing programs, as well as the income generating coffee seedling program. The organization raised over 2 million Arabica coffee seedlings on 400 acres of land and has been distributing coffee seedlings to families in Mbale district. Over 1000 families have benefited from this project. This project was a result of WFWP Uganda's partnership with UNDP. A UNDP grant of \$50 thousand dollars funded the implementation in Bufunbo, sub-county of Mbale district. This project improved the household income of the 400 participating families from about \$200/year income to \$1,200/yr US. WFWP Uganda has demonstrated a concrete development framework that transforms very poor families to families with hope and substantial economic development. In conclusion, Ms. Rutangye expressed deep appreciation of WFWP International and UNDP for making it possible to change the lives of so many families and for supporting WFWP Uganda in this noble cause of poverty eradication. Our Moderator, Amb. Chowdhury commented that this is a great example of a successful partnership between an NGO and a UN program. He would like to see more of this kind of model of partnership working for the eradication of poverty. (The whole text of Ms. Rutangye's speech at website: www.wfwp.org)

Mr. Bekele Geleta summarized the topic of globalization and the role of NGO. Economic globalization (capital flow, FDI and trade) is



Mr. Bekele Geleta
Deputy Head of Delegation,
the Red Cross to the UN

not a standalone concept. It cannot succeed in isolation. A holistic approach to make it work has to include good governance (participating in decision-making, access to information, accountability and transparency), the rule of law, education, basic healthcare, liberalized economy, good investment policy and liberalized trade. He believes that NGOs have a very essential role in supporting the vulnerable in mitigating suffering during the

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transition, until the wealth that is created is reinvested and regenerates the economy, leading to faster economic development. NGOs need to be advocating for people-friendly organizational policy, which creates globalization with a human face. These policies include profit reimbursement, incentives to engage in dialogue with national and international governance entities (UN, international financial institutions and other intergovernmental-bodies) to influence businesses and governments to adopt holistic approaches to globalization through dialogue and promotion of corporate social responsibility through increased partnerships also, wider participation of people in the globalization process to mobilize support. He concluded that NGOs must support the culture of accountability, transparency, and open-access to information and be a role model, using peoples' experience to combat destructive inclinations and actions through consultation and education. Partnerships with indigenous organizations are very critical for this purpose.

An intermission followed the conclusion of the second topic. During the break, there was a video presentation introducing the WFWPI service projects relevant to the MDGs.



Dr. Thomas Ward
Vice President, University of Bridgeport

Dr. Thomas Ward described the two types of governments still in existence, the government that favors transparency, and rule of law and governments that do not. Governments who opposed transparency and rule of law typically do so because they know that such practices would drastically undermine the longevity of their regime. He quoted from Francis Fukayama's *End of History* that more than a decade ago, foresaw the universalizing of the liberal democracy. He also quoted from Samuel Huntington's *Clash of Civilization*, which appeared almost at the same time and foresaw a world in which the religious social and cultural underpinnings of different civilizations would complicate any endeavor aimed at standardizing a worldwide social institution and fostering world peace. Governments need to ask themselves, "Are we willing to run the risk of going beyond our perception of the way in which the future world should be? Are we willing to incorporate into our view the aspiration of other nations and civilizations and admit that alone, no single nation can provide a complete view or remedy to the world problem? Are we willing to

accommodate circumstances in which our nations may not be able to get the full loaf of our future aspirations in accord with our timetable but only half?" The United Nations had fostered the Dialogue Among Civilizations. In other words, globalization obligates enemy nations to face each other on a daily basis. With globalization, there is a temptation to see the modernization model for development that supplants indigenous models of social, religious and cultural organization with the one-size-fits-all solution. However, it was impossible to reach consensus on the issue of birth control and abortion because the modernization view was rejected by the significant portion of the world at the Beijing +5. Therefore, Dr. Ward believes while democratic institutions and due process of law may indeed be the best direction for the future, this paradigm needs to be something that countries and cultures themselves identify as desirable rather than having it forced upon them through military, economic, technological, social or intellectual intimidation. Therefore, the role of government in globalization should be to foster openness and help to provide the venue for the international understanding that globalization invites us to engage in. At the same time it would seem to be the role of government to foster dialogue about the importance of social institutions and values that have guided societies over centuries if not millenniums. He concluded by saying that religion shapes values and cultures. Values and cultures shape civilization and should guide the way in which one nation relates to another. When the forces behind globalization forget what shapes morals and character it is appropriate for the conscience of governments to remind us of the great civilization-founding ideals.



Professor Omotayo R. Olaniyan
Advisor, the African Union of the UN

Prof. Omotayo R. Olaniyan introduced his presentation by stating that globalization has brought about several changes in international relations, created opportunities, but has neglected those countries that do not have the capacity to engage meaningfully in the process. Globalization describes an era where there is fundamentally closer integration of countries and peoples of the world which has been brought about by the enormous reduction of cost of communication, transportation and the breaking down of artificial barriers to the flow

of goods, services, capital knowledge and people across borders. Even though most of the developing countries have adopted policies that promote foreign trade, the results have varied. For instance, the East Asian economies have benefited from trade expansion where the LDCs (Least Developed Countries) have not. They have been impoverished by globalization and excluded from it. Their share of world trade in 1997 was 0.4% compared with 0.8% in 1980. He stated that globalization has brought better health, active civil society fighting for democracy, and greater justice. The problem is not with globalization but how it has been managed. Part of the problem is the international economic institutions IMF, World Bank, and World Trade Organization which help set the rules of the game. They have, in most cases, served the interest of the industrially developed countries and special interests in those countries rather than the developing world. The states must take the role of enhancing and making globalization meaningful and beneficial to all. Governance in the period of globalization should deal with common rules and common objectives that will meet the needs of all people. A fundamental change in governance is required to make globalization work the way it should. Governance should provide the framework for the exercise of democracy, because democracy allows and fosters participation and self determination. IMF and World Bank and all international community institutions must change to ensure that they are not just the voice of trade ministers that are heard in WTO or the voice of the finance ministries and treasurers that are heard at the IMF and World Bank. It is important to ensure that the international economic institutions are more responsive to the poor, to environmental issues, and to broader political and social concerns for openness and transparency. The more the developing countries are able to influence the policies during the process of policy formulation at the intergovernmental level the better the prospects for the attainment of equity and eradication of poverty. Prof. Olaniyan concluded by saying that better governance is important to globalization. The states have a vital role to play in ensuring that interests of all are adequately addressed in treaties and other international institutions. (The whole text of Prof. Olaniyan's speech is available at our website: www.wfwp.org)

Ms. Florence Chenoweth was the final speaker. Her topic was Globalization and the Fight against Poverty. Her remarks were focused most specifically on what the FAO is doing within the terms of its mandate to combat poverty. She quoted the recent report by the Secretary General on Globalization. As world leaders

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Commission on the Status of Women - 48th Session

March 1-12, 2004 - UN HQ, New York

By Bonnie Berry

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) met recently for the 48th session at UN Headquarters in New York City. The CSW is a forum for governments to address women's equity. It is composed of 45 member states, each elected for a four year term. Following the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, the UN General Assembly mandated the CSW to integrate into its programme, a follow up process to regularly review critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action and to develop a catalytic



role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities. CSW is also responsible for monitoring government implementation of both the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty First Century". CSW has the opportunity to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This year's CSW focused on two thematic issues. They were: "**The role of men and boys in achieving gender equity,**" and "**Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace building**".

Attendees to the CSW consisted of delegations from the 45 member states, as well as over 900 representatives of various international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The vast majority of attendees were women. For some, it was their first time; others had been coming every year for twenty years.

In the opening session, Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs Jose Antonio Ocampo and Asst. Secretary General Angela E. V. King, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women emphasized that women hold the key to eradicating poverty worldwide. Achievement of gender equity is closely related to achieving the MDGs. Ms. King stated that "Our vision is a world where boys and girls have equal opportunities for education, where mothers and children have equal access to better healthcare, where men and women share decision making equally, equally enjoy fundamental human rights and striving equally to achieve peace, democracy, good governance, and sustainable development for their nations and families."

Events involved a combination of official meetings on the themes, including both panel discussions and negotiation sessions, many of which the NGO representatives could participate in as observers. There were side events for the NGO representatives (panel discussions, presentations and interactive brainstorming sessions organized by attending NGOs). Also, a regular schedule of caucuses gave NGO representatives the opportunity to discuss the themes and generate a consensus statement to the national delegations, giving input about the themes and the outcome document of the CSW.

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women did a fine job of coordinating the schedule of hundreds of side events, providing orientation and publishing a handbook/schedule of the whole CSW. During any given time period there were 4 to 7 different functions going on. WFPW representatives did their best to participate in as broad a range of programs as possible including official meetings, panel discussions on various topics, thematic caucuses and interactive sessions of sharing about best practices for peacemaking, development and easing suffering.

One very enriching event was presented by the NGO committee on UNIFEM, entitled "Building Peace and Security from the Ground Up: An Interactive Workshop Featuring the UNIFEM Models. In this session, participants were instructed to break up in small groups of people that they didn't know. We were given four topics to discuss: Basic conditions that need to be addressed to promote peace and security in our own community, best practices to promote peace and security, what we will undertake to promote women's roles in peace building and security and what the UN and NGOs can do to support efforts of women in peace building. It was exciting to discuss these topics with a diverse group of women who included a World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts professional who is from Kenya, and works with refugee children there, the Secretary General of World Movement of Mothers from France, an NGO intern from Sweden, and a representative of a US NGO who was at her tenth CSW.

There was a notable distinction in viewpoints between those dwelling in developing nations vs. developed nations relating to basic conditions needed to promote peace and security. Those from developing nations stressed the need for development of infrastructure such as good roads and effective law enforcement personnel and access to basic resources for people such as clean water, food, shelter, clothing, education, livelihood and healthcare. Participants from developed nations dwelled more on political realities such



as nonproliferation of arms, and disarmament as well as the need for commitment on the part of governments to find nonviolent solutions to conflict.

The most hopeful aspect of this workshop was comparing notes about best practices and recognizing success stories. Some identified successes were; micro credit projects to aid in the development of small businesses for women and families, the creation of women's guilds for the purpose of business development and peace training, reconciliation work that brings together women of different nations, cultures and faiths for opportunities in dialog and friendship, such as WFPW's sisterhood ceremonies and World Movement of Mothers' conference with French and Lebanese mothers. We also discussed Peace Education programs for children like the Girl Guides' Peace Ambassador Program. This session was concluded by all the groups reporting to the whole about our two most significant findings, which were recorded by the organizers for future use.

Other side events included a panel on "New Approaches" in problem solving practices for trafficking in people sponsored by the U.S. A group of nursing professors and other professional women from Taiwan discussed issues as wide ranging as domestic violence, depression in women, the challenges of facing last year's SARS crisis, and efforts to preserve cultural heritage among indigenous communities in another. Rotary, Soroptomists Intl. and Zonta Intl. sponsored a panel featuring projects such as vocational training for youth in Thailand to give them a saleable skill, helping to divert them from entering the sex industry, support of Dr. Hamlin's Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia, and a domestic violence awareness campaign that communicates even to the illiterate.

The twelve day CSW is packed with opportunities to network, learn, caucus and brainstorm among other NGOs and the national delegations. It is certainly encouraging to see how much good work is going on in the world, but there is much more to do. I urge anyone who has the opportunity to attend the Commission on the Status of Women to do so.

(Official documents and statements to the CSW are available at www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw click on 48th session)





PREAMBLE OF UN CHARTER



WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

- ▶ to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
- ▶ to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- ▶ to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- ▶ to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

- ▶ to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and
- ▶ to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and
- ▶ to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and
- ▶ to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.

U.N. Charter ratified on October 24, 1945

(Complete UN Charter at www.un.org/aboutun/charter/index.html)

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recognized at the Millennium Summit, the key question in the globalization debates is how to manage globalization so that poverty can be reduced and development goals achieved. The challenge today is to ensure that the powerful economic and technological progress that underlies globalization is



Ms. Florence Chenoweth
Director, Food & Agriculture
Organization of the UN

consistent with the Millennium Development Goals. She quoted from World Bank statistics that show there remain nearly 1.2 billion people (1/5 of the world population) who continue to live in absolute poverty, on less than one dollar a day. The recently released report of FAO on the State of Food Insecurity in the World 2003 (SOFI) reveals that the number of chronically hungry persons has declined by some 80 million in a few countries since the baseline period of the World Food Summit, between the periods 1990-1992, 1999-2001. However, there are still more than 840 million people worldwide who are undernourished. This figure includes 10 million in unindustrialized countries, 34 million in countries in transition, and some

798 million in developing countries. Falling 37 million during the first half of 1990s, the number of hungry people in developing countries has actually increased 18 million in the second half of the decade. Because the present state of hunger and poverty is unacceptable, the FAO has stressed repeatedly that if we continue at a current pace we will not reach the goal of cutting hunger in half until 2150 which is 100 years after the MDG target date of 2015. She stressed strongly what is lacking is not an abundance of food rather there is a lack of political will to do something about hunger. Success in reducing hunger will depend on mastering the political will to engage in policy reforms and invest resources where they can do the most good for the poor and hungered. She also stated that we cannot talk about eradication of poverty without also addressing the eradication of hunger. She explained the adoption of the International Alliance against Hunger (IAAH) declaration which was ratified at the World Food Summit in 2001. That Alliance was launched in New York at the United Nations by the Director General of FAO on October 17 during the observance of World Food Day. She also summarized FAO's various programs such as anti-hunger programs, interagency food and security, vulnerability information and mapping system as well as National Policies and Strategy of Food Security Agriculture Development (NPSAD). She explained New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) as well as Comprehensive Africa Agricultural

Development Program (CAADP). She referred to the special program for food security as one of the leading elements of FAO's specific assistance to countries (administered jointly with WFP and IFAD). Ms. Chenoweth encouraged us to read further on the findings of FAO, accessible at FAO's website. She looks forward to the opportunity to collaborate further in facing the global issue of poverty eradication.

Around the time the forum started, snow began to fall, becoming a huge snowstorm. Despite the snowstorm, the nearly 400 participants, including around 70 participants from UN Missions and UN systems stayed until the end. The Under-Secretary-General, High Representative Ambassador Chowdhury was a magnificent moderator, who successfully drew all the participants' attention to the forum. Seven excellent panelists shared their expertise and experiences. After a serious question and answer session, the forum finished at 6:00 pm. Participants sent their good wishes to each other for a safe trip home. The Third Annual Forum on the Eradication of Poverty, entitled Globalization and the Eradication of Poverty was a great success despite the very challenging circumstance of the snowstorm.



Upcoming Events 2004



April 10

12th Anniversary of WFP



May

8th WFP Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East*

Geneva, Switzerland

May 15

International Day of Families



August 1

International Youth Day



September 8-10

**57th DPI/NGO Conference
WFP Sponsors Midday Workshop***

September 14

**59th Session of General Assembly
Begins**

September 15

**International Day of Peace
5th WFP Intl. Leaders Workshop***

Vienna, Austria



October 17

**International Day of Eradication of
Poverty**

**WFP Forum on the
Eradication of Poverty***

UN HQ New York, USA



*date tentative