



# Women's

## Federation for World Peace International

United Nations Office Newsletter

Fall 2008

### 2nd Innovation Fair

#### ECOSOC High Level Segment and Annual Ministerial Review

June 30-July 3, 2008 - ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations HQ, New York



Under Secretary General Sha (center) and Chief of NGO Section, Ms. D. Mezoui with WFWP International Vice-President, Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama (left).

By Motoko Sugiyama

During the four days of High Level Segment (HLS) of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)'s 2008 Substantive Session (June 30-July 25), two new functions of ECOSOC (established in 2007), AMR and Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) took place. The Innovation Fair of Civil Society Pavilion was the parallel event to AMR. Success stories of civil society/NGOs that were relevant to this year's theme of AMR, "Implementing the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitment in Regard to Sustainable Development" were displayed at the Innovation Fair.

HLS was opened by H.E. Ambassador Leo Merores, President of ECOSOC. Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon's address was delivered by

Under Secretary General of UN DESA, Mr. Sha ZuKang. The keynote addresses by Mr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman of Intergovernmental Climate Change and Lord Stern of Brentford, author of the Stern Review followed. The High-Level policy dialogue was held on the morning of June 30th, after the opening session of the High Level Segment. This dialogue involved executive heads of international financial and trade institutions



WFWPI Booth At Innovation Fair 2008

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such as International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, World Trade Organization (WTO) and UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) discussing the state of the world economy and its implications for achieving the UN Development agenda. The opening of the DCF began that afternoon and continued until July 1. The AMR was held from July 1 to July 3. Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration (E/2008/L.10) occurred in the final moments of the AMR and was submitted by the President of ECOSOC in conclusion of the HLS. (More info on HLS at: [www.un.org/ecosoc/](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/))

WFWP International participated in this year's HLS by submitting a statement to the AMR of HLS and two success stories to the Innovation Fair of AMR. The statement was officially documented in the UN's six official languages on May 19, 2008 as E/2008/ngo/11. (Full text of WFWPI statement at: <http://documents.un.org>; WFWPI statement to the AMR and success stories also at [www.wfwp.org](http://www.wfwp.org)) WFWPI's two success stories were posted on the UN-NGO-Irene Best Practices Network and displayed at the WFWPI booth in the Civil Society Pavilion in Conference Room D, on June 30-July 3, 2008. WFWPI was one of the thirteen NGOs with booths at the Pavilion (Complete info on Innovation Fair at [www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/irene](http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/irene)).

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## 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.***

WFWPI International is a non-profit, non-governmental international organization in General Consultative Status of ECOSOC and DPI Associates with the United Nations

Motoko Sugiyama

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## At the UN in New York...

Reports of NGO Briefings

### Father's Roles and Responsibilities in the Family: Challenges and Opportunities

May 15, 2008 - UN HQ, New York

By *Cynthia Shibuya*

Panelists were Mrs. Joyce Kafanabo, Minister, Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations; Ms. Nurper Ulkuer, Senior Adviser and Chief, Early Childhood Development Unite, UNICEF; and Prof Anderson J. Franklin, Dept. of Counseling, Developmental and Educational Psychology, Boston College.

The briefing began with the screening of the film, "To be a Father", hosted by Ray Romano. In this video, Ray Romano emphasizes the benefits of fathers' active involvement in the care and nurturing of children. He encouraged fathers to have plenty of interaction with their children and share care giving responsibilities with their wives.

Mrs. Kafanabo explained the traditional position and role of a father in the family



as the head, provider and chief decision-maker. According to Mrs. Kafanabo, this social positioning is the root cause of gender alienation. Studies have shown that the more involved both parents are in their children's lives, the better the children develop. But traditionally, men do not even concern themselves with a woman's pregnancy. In Tanzania, if a man goes with his wife to the hospital during childbirth, he is suspect. The labor ward is considered no place for men. The women also do not want their husbands in the labor room or attending birth. Assistance during birth comes from other women. If a man comes to bring the child home, everyone is very uncomfortable and do their best to get him out quickly. Men are not considered men if they help with diaper-changing, etc. Fathers are denied opportunities for closer relations with the children because of their role in the society. Men in Africa need a support system to help them change their roles. Actually, now

**Father's Roles**, continued on pg. 7

### Kick the Habit: Towards a Carbon Neutral Economy World Environment Day (WED)

June 5, 2008 - UN HQ, New York

By *Cynthia Shibuya*

Event speakers were H.E. Ms. Rosemary Banks, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations; Mr. James Sniffen, Information Officer, United Nations Environment Program, New York Office; Ms. Miriam Horn, Environmental Defense Fund; and Ms. Wendy Gordon, Founder, the Green Guide, National Geographic. Eric Falt acted as moderator.

The video, "Kick the Habit - CO2 Low Carbon Emissions" was shown to open the panel. In the video, Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand explains the efforts in reducing greenhouse carbon emissions in New Zealand.

H.E. Banks shared about her work in New Zealand. This year New Zealand is partnering with the UN in WED activities and awareness campaigns. Week long activities were organized to inform people and inspire actions to lower gas emissions and work toward a carbon reduced future. New Zealanders are expecting to cut their power use this year. The New Zealand government is creating initiatives, regulations, energy strategy, transport strategy, as well as adopting sustainable practices. Efforts are also being made to cut water use and plastic waste. These efforts are controversial. New Zealand leaders are also recognizing the

indigenous cultures and the need to work with them towards the goal of reducing carbon emissions.

Mr. Sniffen began by promoting his book, *Practical Advice: Kick the Habit*. This book encourages action and commitment and offers practical suggestions to reduce carbon emissions. Increasing insulation, turning off electronics and lighting, being careful with water usage, planting trees, buying "green" paper and supplies all help to lower carbon emissions. Sniffen encourages others to be a part of the WED network. Global efforts to de-carbon the world need personnel and both corporate and political action.

Ms. Horn, author of *Earth: The Sequel*, mentioned that the Environmental Defense Fund is partnering with corporations, working to bring the energy cap lower slowly so businesses can adapt. Energy is a six trillion dollar initiative leading a blossoming of inventions and jobs. New inventions are being created in bio fuel, wave energy, wind energy, water energy and more. This means many potential job opportunities.

Ms. Gordon introduced books with practical steps for living a greener life including *The Green Guide*, coproduced by Meryl Streep, a

**Kick the Habit**, continued on pg. 12

## The Role of Civil Society in Promoting Sustainable Development and the New International Aid Architecture

ECOSOC NGO Forum 2008

April 4, 2008 - ECOSOC Chamber, UN HQ, NY

By *Motoko Sugiyama*

This NGO Forum was a preparatory event for the 2008 High Level Segment of ECOSOC which includes the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) and other High Level Meetings in New York during July. The Forum was organized by the NGO Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and co-sponsored by UN NGO Liaison Service (NGLS), the World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA) and the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CONGO).

Moderator, Ms. Hanifa D. Mezoui, Chief of NGO Section, DESA, welcomed everyone by announcing the ECOSOC chamber is now home to ECOSOC NGOs. In his opening remarks, H.E. Ambassador Antonio Pedro Lima Monteiro from Cape Verde, Vice President of ECOSOC explained that the AMR had been mandated at the 2005 World Summit. At this summit, ECOSOC reviewed progress in implementation of Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs) including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). He stressed that the AMR reviews progress, especially in achievement of the MDGs. Ambassador Lima also stressed, the purpose of DCF is to facilitate conversation between

public and private development efforts and to be the main forum for dialogue among policy stakeholders, particularly the private sector.

Twelve best practices from NGOs, selected from forty one success stories received by the NGO Section, were presented. Ms. Shula Koenig, Founder and Executive Director of People's Movement Decade for Human Rights Education (PDHRE) moderated this session. (These best practices can be found at <http://esa.un.org/coordination/ngo/new/best/stories.asp>) The panel discussion included seven excellent and diverse panelists representing government, the UN system and NGOs. Panelists were: Ms. Pera Wells, Secretary-General, WFUNA; Ms. Shamina de Gonzaga, Special Advisor on NGO Relations (OPGA); Ms. Elisa Peter, Deputy Coordinator and Chief of the NGLS, NY Office; Mr. Liberato C. Bautista, President of CONGO; Ms. Lina Andrianantoandro, Counsellor Mission of Madagascar to the UN; H.E. Ambassador Francis Lorenzo, Permanent Representative of Dominican Republic to the UN; and Ms. Xenia von Lillien-Walden, Liaison and Public Information Officer, IFAD (for more information, visit <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo>).

*Aid Architecture, contd. on pg. 12*

## Uniting the World Against AIDS

2008 High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS

June 10-11, 2008 - GA, UN HQ, NY

By *Merly Barlaan*

General Assembly President, Mr. Srgjan Kerim; UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon, heads of state and over eighty ministers, senior officials, representatives of international organizations and civil society met to review progress towards the targets agreed upon in the UN's 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. Based on 147 national reports submitted to UNAIDS at the end of January 2008, all stakeholders reviewed the return on investments and outlined solutions and policies needed to meet the agreed targets, including universal access to prevention and treatment by 2010.

Opening session was a formal plenary meeting of the General Assembly. Statements were made by the President of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary General, the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, an eminent person and a person living with HIV. UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban said: "Our challenge now is to build on what we have started, bridge the gaps we know exist, and step up our efforts in years to come. We can do this only if we

*HIV/AIDS, continued on pg. 10*

## Decisions on Water and Sanitation

16th Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16) - Plenary Session

May 13, 2008 - UN HQ, NYC

By *Hannah Alexander*

Safe drinking water is one of the most basic human requirements. Access to clean water is essential in enabling women and girls to devote more time to the pursuit of education, income generation, poverty reduction, and the construction and management of water and sanitation facilities. At the end of 2004, 1.1 billion people or 18 percent of the world's population lacked access to safe drinking water. 2.6 billion or 40 percent of the world's population lacked access to improved sanitation services. The May 13th plenary session of the (CSD-16) tackled these issues by focusing on identifying obstacles and constraints to water resource management and strategies to strengthen water governance.

"I will reflect on the international water resource management structure and why capacity-building remains an issue," said Margaret Catley-Carlson, member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, as she commenced the session. Progress has been made in addressing agricultural and industrial water usage

issues, but we still lag behind in implementing water management and governance programs. "Lack of infrastructure and development remain a crucial problem. We need to put financing in order. Can we make international resource management simpler? Does water management help the poor? There needs to be more capacity-building," added Catley-Carlson.

Mike Muller, a water consultant based in South Africa, took a more critical stance on water resource issues. "There needs to be truth about how much water there is and who is using it. The water problem is an issue of governance and government." Human activity utilizes less than 10 percent of rain water. The water challenges we are facing do not stem from a shortage of water, but water management issues. "If water is not properly administered, crisis will arise. The challenges are only changing and growing. The present trajectory can lead to drought and inter-state conflict unless we act decisively," concluded Muller.

The food crisis has been international headline news recently, but few articles mention

an underlying factor and key determinant of future food supplies: fresh water access and availability. David Molden, Deputy Directory of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), identified the heart of the issue, "There is a critical link between food and water. During the 1970s there was significant investment in agriculture and water, but investment has since tapered off. Our economies and agricultural productivity are invariably linked to water. Without a focus on water, there is little hope in achieving the MDGs," stated Molden. Water is a frontline issue, and "we have to think differently about our approach to it." The key question facing the water policy and management community is how climate change will impact the water cycle and what will be the adaptation strategies to reduce human and environmental risks.

Wrapping up the plenary session, and summarizing the panelists views, Daniel Zimmer, a World Water Council representative, said, "We need to enhance international cooperation; to involve many different actors. Water is a political issue; a power structure issue. Exchanging experiences and building capacities of existing mechanisms and structures" will be vital to making progress and we must act soon.



# At the UN in Geneva ...

## Strengthening Women's Leadership Capacities Through Education and Training

WFWPI 12th Annual Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East

June 17-18, 2008 - Palais des Nations, UN HQ Geneva

By Carolyn Handschin

One hundred sixty women leaders from the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and Japan, representing governments, international organizations and civil society institutions gathered at the United Nations in Geneva marking the 12th anniversary of the Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East. Discussions focused on identifying positive steps to improve access to education, tools and the mindset necessary for women to participate actively in the social, economic and political



developments in their region. Holding the conference in Geneva presented a unique opportunity to forge partnerships outside of the region, share expertise and seek innovative solutions which built on conclusions from the previous eleven conferences. Over half the participants were under thirty years old, which contributed to the adoption of very forward looking strategies.

*"Without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women's perspective at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, justice and peace cannot be achieved."*

"At this time of global crises, it has become clear that women's perspectives and talents are necessary to help redefine national and international priorities and to implement sustainable commitments to goals of peace and justice their governments have made," explained conference cochair, Carolyn Handschin, Deputy Director, WFWPI UN Office in her opening remarks.

The first speaker of the panel was Ambassador Luis A. De Alba, president of the historic first year of the Human Rights Council. He reminded participants that we are still building the three



pillars of the UN. Enforcement of human rights comes through moral and political pressure, not force. As women are guaranteed equal access to education and as they take on roles to defend human rights, the new tools and mechanisms can deliver change.

Dr. Lan Yang Moon Park, WFWPI president affirmed the accomplishment of gathering women to break down barriers among ourselves first. She referred to the WFWPI Heart to Heart Peace Conference in 2004 in Jerusalem and last year's gathering of 500 women from five continents in North Korea. We must all respond to the needs of our fellow human family members. Women need to be heard. We all know of Martin Luther King Jr., but few heard about Rosa Parks. When she decided not to give a seat to a white person on a bus and was arrested for that, many people sympathized with her. Martin Luther King Jr. came on that foundation.



Dr. Patricia Lewis, Director of UNIDIR (UN Institute on Disarmament Research) said that men and women need to think together, as well as people of different ages, cultures and knowledge. We need women from the Middle East to bring their knowledge and experience to the UN or peace cannot be made there. Peace will come from understanding and listening within a common framework.

H.E. In'am Al Mufti, the first woman minister (Social Development) in Jordan and special advisor for 10 years of this conference series, referred to a report that she had written for UNESCO "Learning the Treasure Within". Scientific and economic advancement have not brought happiness. The family is the place where we learn to practice love and relate constructively to one another. The prophet says that we are all leaders. Women are most important in that area because they play a vital role in community development. We need to find women at the grassroots and help them develop their leadership capacities and skills.

Ambassador Laura Thompson Chacon of Costa Rica spoke about the labors her nation has made in the area of human rights education.



She informed us that her country had abolished their army in 1948, dedicating all resources to education, health and development of infrastructure. We have to give our population a new perspective and vitality based upon ethics, citizenship and understanding of how to live together enjoyably. Civil society and especially women have much more power than they realize to challenge ideas and be a force of change.

Dr. El Bouchiha, a professor in civic education in Tunisia, stated that the most effective way of developing countries is to educate women. In Tunisia because costs are so high, often only boys are sent on to higher education. At this time only 23% of government officials are women. Even some Arab countries still deny women the right to vote and be elected. She recommended more incentive be established to increase the presence of women in decision-making.

Session 2 was chaired by Mme. Al-Mufti: **What are the requirements for women's leadership and how to strengthen them?** She invited Dr. Moon Park to speak about educating and promoting women as central figures instead of peripheral figures. Dignified gender roles must be fostered and masculine and feminine natures harmonized. Development is slow without utilizing the best of women's power. A leadership that serves, cares and embraces, as women learn in their gender roles, will bring prosperity and cultural development for all.

Dr. Haifa Zangana, journalist from Iraq and chair of the Committee on Media and Culture, reported that people in her country have regressed unimaginably. Thirty years ago, gender was a vibrant issue, now 74% of uneducated children are girls. Youth cannot read or write although their mothers and grandmothers were highly educated. We are fighting an uphill battle. We have to continue talk of peace and build from the grassroots. Dr. Asmaa Kfarou, professor of Islamic studies for women, and granddaughter of the former Grand Mufti said we have to be able to cry for peace; for those close to us and those we don't know. Peace requires justice. When women

**Women's Leadership, continued on pg. 11**

# At the UN in Vienna...

## “Beyond 2008” NGO Forum

July 7-9, 2008 - UN Office on Drug and Crime, UNHQ Vienna, Austria

By Lilly Gundacker

“Moving drug control beyond 2008 requires solidarity,” stated Director General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, Antonio Maria Costas, in his opening remarks to the NGO Forum. The 2008 World Drug Report confirms that the world drug problem has stabilized since the beginning of this decade. “However”, he added, “26 million people in the world face severe drug dependence.” Yet, it is a fraction of the number of addictions to psychoactive substances like tobacco and alcohol. Drugs kill 200,000 people a year; alcohol kills about 2.5 million people, and tobacco close to 5 million. Without drug control systems, illicit drug use would have similar devastating consequences for public health as tobacco and alcohol.

Over 300 international NGOs were represented at the forum, highlighting the important contribution of civil society to formulate a drug policy. The Beyond 2008 Conference was chaired by a civil society representative this year; Michel Perron, CEO, Canadian Centre of Substance Abuse.

The forum coincides with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs 1998-2008 review. The review encompasses a review of progress in achieving 1998 targets set for the Commission

meeting in March 2008, and a high level segment of the Commission in March 2009 to consider future directions for international drug control policy. This process requires a series of preparatory meetings in 2008. This Forum was timed for maximum impact on that process. The preparations were preceded by nine regional meetings in the twelve months prior to the Beyond 2008 Summit. Over 500 local NGOs and 165 International NGOs came together in more than 13 local meetings to review the UNGASS (United Nations General Assembly Special Session) of 1998. WFWPI UN Representative and member of the NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs, Lilly Gundacker was active in all stages of conference preparations.

Director General, Antonio Costa caught the essential conference message well, “I urge you all to join the Copernican revolution that we have been leading over the years to effect a reversal of priorities in drug policy. Not just destroying drug crops and arresting drug traffickers, not just handing out gadgets (condoms, syringes, needles or soups), but implementing comprehensive measures to cover prevention, treatment and reintegration. I urge the leaders of the harm reduction movement to join in this call for enhanced prevention and treatment. A call to

action is needed that mobilizes a broad cross-section of society: the medical profession, social workers, universities, and NGOs, in order to train professionals, disseminate evidence-based practice, and improve access to quality services. We must also involve municipalities and schools to provide support to students and parents. Drug control should also put a stronger emphasis on human rights. I believe that although drugs kill, we shouldn't kill because of drugs. My Office is working with the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights and a number of NGOs to make states more aware of their obligations to human rights in relation to drug control. This is more than an inter-governmental or UN-centric process. It is about the future of our societies. Therefore, we need to hear from those on the front lines; from you. In the same way that you expect 192 Member States to be united on this issue, I urge you all to agree on a joint declaration at this meeting that sends a clear signal how you think the health and welfare of humanity can be saved from the scourge of drugs. I know that there are divergent views among you, as there are among states. But moving drug control beyond 2008 requires solidarity among states taking a shared responsibility, between governments and civil society working together, and among all of humanity to ensure that no one falls through the cracks because of drug dependence.”



## Promoting Human Dignity to Prevent Trafficking and 60 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

WFWPI Conference: June 27-29, 2008 - UNHQ Vienna, Austria

By Elisabeth Riedl

“I call on men around the world to lead by example: to make clear that violence against women is an act perpetrated by a coward, and that speaking up against it is a badge of honor. I call on Member States around the world: The responsibility, above all, lies with you. I call on all of you to pledge with me: United We Shall Succeed.” - Statement by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, launching the Global campaign to end violence against women on February 25, 2008

WFWPI organized an international conference held at the UN in Vienna and at a conference center outside of the city in Seebenstein, Austria from June 27 to 29, 2008. The objectives were to commemorate the 60

year anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to advance achievement of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) No. 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women.

Opening remarks were made by Ms. Elisabeth Riedl, Conference coordinator and UN representative of WFWPI in Vienna. Chair for the first session was WFWPI UN Office Deputy Director Carolyn Handschin. The topic was Human Rights, Spirituality and Women's Dignity. Dr. Bosco of UN Regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) explained the programs of UNICRI in Europe. She presented examples of existing projects which incorporated strategies for combating trafficking in both destination and origin countries. The team on the very successful Action Program Against Trafficking of Minors for Sexual Purposes collects, evaluates and monitors data both locally and internationally, and implements modular technical cooperation activities in the three selected pilot countries: Costa Rica, Thailand and Ukraine.



Corinna Milborn, ORF television host and author of *Ware Frau*, (German language publication just published in Vienna) presented her investigations on the causes and effects on the lives of trafficked women. She identified several solutions including rethinking victim protection and mitigating the global economic imbalance.

Two NGO presenters, Exit Vienna and Mayina Paris/Gabon introduced their best practices:

Joan Reiterer from Exit participated in the UN General Assembly meeting on trafficking in NY on June 3, 2008. She traced the reasons for trafficking: migration, poverty, sexual exploitation. The wish to migrate is an important mobilizing factor for the victim. After explaining the causes and processes of trafficking in origin countries, including her native Nigeria, she spoke about reasons

**Prevent Trafficking, continued on pg. 11**



# Reaffirming Human Rights for All: The Universal Declaration at 60 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference

September 3-5, 2008 - UNESCO HQ, Paris

By Carolyn Handschin

Of the nearly 1000 NGOs meeting to address human rights and the implementation of the Universal Declaration, there were a larger number of African, Asian and European participants than ever before. The intentions of conference organizers to highlight the fact that the original signing ceremony of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948 was held in Paris at the Palais de Chaillot and to provide easier access to the DPI/NGO Conference for NGOs of developing countries and a broader geographic range, both contributed to the decision to hold the annual conference outside of New York for the first time in 60 years.



In a video message to open the three day event, United Nations Secretary General **Ban Ki-moon** described the UDHR as one of mankind's greatest achievements. UNESCO Director General, **Koichiro Matsuura** began his message by calling for a moment of silence to remember the victims of the tragic humanitarian plane crash in the Democratic Republic of the Congo the day before. He stated that the "victims had lost their lives in the service of the ideals they all shared." He went on to applaud the tenacity of the NGO community over the last 60 years for their "expertise and in-depth knowledge of the situation and close work and support for the populations affected." He explained his agency's faithful commitment to disseminate the text of UDHR and to promote, in particular, "the right to education, right to freedom of opinion and expression, right to receive and disseminate information, right to participate in cultural life and the right to benefit from scientific progress."

The human rights advocate, holocaust survivor, and former French minister, Simone Veil, noted in her keynote address that although the UDHR had been conceived with the backdrop of tragedy from World War II, similar crimes persist until this day. The independence and diversity of NGOs often put them in a role more advantageous to those who need protection. We cannot forget that NGO workers put their lives at risk time and time again. Srgjan Kerim, President of the General

Assembly, in his video message, underscored the mandate of the new Human Rights Council in Geneva to promote and protect Human Rights worldwide. Representing the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Bacre Ndiaye, assured participants that the new High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanathem Pillay, clearly recognizes the critical role that civil society plays in removing obstacles to the implementation of human rights standards.

The Under Secretary General for Communications and Public Information, **Kiyo Akasaka**, enlightened participants with some little known historical data. He explained that the work to write, consolidate and have the Declaration adopted was an incredibly arduous task. Also, NGOs were intricately involved in the process. He asked if participants knew of the second resolution that followed immediately after the adoption of the UDHR that requested Member States to use all means available to publicize the text of the resolution. Nongovernmental organization involvement in the process dated back to its very inception in 1945, when more than 40 nongovernmental organization groups were invited to San Francisco during the founding of the United Nations. It was the groups who had argued for inclusion in the United Nations Charter for specific provisions on the promotion and protection of human rights.

The final speaker of the opening panel, **Shamina de Gonzaga**, Chair of the Conference, said that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, like the United Nations Charter, is something that should provide guidance on our way forward. She also implored that the NGO community in their consultative relations within the UN system, bear in mind the reciprocity of the relationship. It is important for NGO representatives not only to express their views, but also to listen.

## Raising awareness on the important role of the UDHR for NGOs

The overall aim of this year's conference was to improve partnership between civil society and other actors for the advancement of human rights at the international, regional, national and local levels. As there are many who are not specifically working in this field, the event sought to raise awareness among the worldwide NGO community on the important role that the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and its attendant Covenants, has on all facets of NGO work.

Flanking the podium in the main assembly hall were the larger than life photos of eight of the original committee of drafters, including Rene



Cassin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Prominently placed and the only woman, Eleanor Roosevelt's serious yet endearing face, reminded many what an arduous and humbling task it must have been sixty years ago, to facilitate that historic process.

The conference program consisted of morning and afternoon roundtable sessions, followed by up to five concurrent breakout sessions, as well as a series of midday workshops. As the first day was consecrated to giving background on the human rights treaty system, the afternoon roundtable, chaired by the first Human Rights Council President, Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba was titled, "**Upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**". United Nations and legal experts discussed opportunities for engagement for NGOs and human rights defenders within the UN system.

## Perspectives on the implementation of human rights in the context of ongoing challenges as well as emerging issues

The second day's morning roundtable session was Overcoming Discrimination to Realize Human Rights for All. Human rights instruments and treaties that protect such violations were elucidated as well as insight given into the concept of a "rights based approach" to discrimination. This was described as ensuring the active participation of discriminated persons, to empower them and make them become the actors of change. One particular breakout session on 'Mothers: A Cohesive Force' identified strategies and good practices among a network of mothers to make governments aware of their valuable partnership capacities.

The afternoon session, Human Rights and Human Security took note of the discrepancies between the fundamental human right of security of the individual and the obligation of governments to protect individuals. Measures taken to counter terrorism and root out internet crime have posed other threats to human rights and the rule of law. Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 were approached in one session to demonstrate the sustainability of specific peace processes toward women's equality and their subsequent empowerment through that recognition.

**Human Rights**, continued on pg. 10

# NGO's Perspectives on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Women's Innovation for Sustainable Development Luncheon Meeting in Support of ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review (AMR)

April 25, 2008 - Delegates Dining Hall, UN HQ, New York

By *Motoko Sugiyama*

The Luncheon Meeting was cosponsored by Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) International and WFWP USA as a part of the three day USA National Assembly and commemoration of WFWPI's 16th Anniversary, April 25-27, 2008.

There were 100 participants at the Delegates Dining Room. Twenty were from the UN System and 80 were regional leaders and friends of WFWP USA. The moderator, Ms. Karen Smith, UN Representative of WFWP opened the event. Ms. Motoko Sugiyama, VP and Director of UN Office of WFWP welcomed guests, touching briefly on the topic; "Women's Innovation for Sustainable Development". She stated that even in the olden days, women had a very important role in the success of great men. Without women's innovative and sustained power, the UN's very ambitious MDGs cannot be achieved. WFWPI members have been creating very innovative programs and projects around the world, to empower women and children. These volunteers are motivated by the belief once stated by WFWPI Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon that, "There is enough food and resources on the earth to feed every human being. Human beings are not created to be poor, miserable or starving. God programmed human beings to be happy."

After the Luncheon, the video "Living As A Global Family" featuring WFWPI's service projects, was presented. The two speakers from the UN system, Mr. Bertil Lindblad, Director

of UN AIDS, NY Office and Ms. Michelle Fedoroff, Deputy Chief of NGO Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) gave excellent and very informative presentations.

In his overview of the work of **UN AIDS Mr. Lindblad** explained that 33.2 million people have been infected by HIV/AIDS worldwide. Unfortunately there is no vaccine to cure the disease. It will likely take another 10-15 years before a vaccine becomes available. Three million people are taking anti-AIDS treatment, including two million in Africa. But five million people still need treatment. The good news is Thailand has been very successful in overall reduction of new infections of HIV. There was a very historical special session of the General Assembly (GA) about HIV/AIDS in June 2000, which was a turning point for the issue. It was followed by a June 2008 High Level Meeting of the General Assembly regarding AIDS. Universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention will become available. Mr. Lindblad stated that "AIDS is not a simple problem. It relates to various issues including gender issues, discrimination, homosexuality, etc. There is no instant solution." However as the UN, government, and civil society continue to work together for the solution we will see more reduction for HIV/AIDS.

**Ms. Fedoroff** summarized the Substantive Session of ECOSOC, June 30 – July 25, 2008 at UNHQ, NY and its AMR and High Level Segment June 30 – July 3, 2008. She also



explained the impact of NGOs participation in the Innovation Fair at AMR. She stressed that ECOSOC is transforming into a "New ECOSOC" which opens its door to civil society and NGOs by inviting the display of NGO success stories at the UN that are relevant to the theme of the AMR. Ms. Fedoroff supported our participation in ECOSOC including submission of a Statement to the High Level Segment and Success Stories to the AMR Innovation Fair.

In closing, H.E. Ambassador Abdul Wahab, Office of Permanent Mission for the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the UN and Prof. Lan Young Moon Park, President of WFWP International lead a toast to shared commitment. It was a beautiful occasion to witness. Representatives from UN Missions (government), UN Agencies, and NGOs made a new determination and commitment together, to achieving the MDGs. 

## *Father's Role, contd from pg. 2*

many men are willing to change and be involved in child-rearing, but the society is not ready for that yet. Women need to advocate for men to take more responsibility in the family. Now boys are being educated to help. When they do, the family prospers. Once women work outside the home, the family dynamics change. If the family can adapt, especially the girls can do well. If girls are educated then the family prospers as well.

There are more than 120 different tribes in Tanzania, all with distinct traditions. To achieve anything, one must be sensitive to the traditions of the tribes.

Ms. Nurper Ulkuer spoke about the advocacy work UNICEF does regarding the role of fathers from before the child is born until primary education. What works? The starting point is the participation of men. Positive participation by fathers means positive outcome in children.

Gender dynamics start from birth. Gender training includes boys as well. The present concept of masculinity has to change. The

father's role is as important as the mother's role. When responsibilities in care giving are shared, fathers' self confidence in parenting increases. The father's participation, showing affection and caring, spending quality time with his child, etc., will promote gender equality, power balances, and "positive masculinity." Building a new image of parental roles in young parents increases shared responsibilities. Ms. Ulkuer concluded that for fathers to be able to get more involved in their children's lives, societies need to create policies that support fathers' active role in child rearing.

Prof. Anderson J. Franklin addressed the position of black men in America. Because of the high rate of absent fathers and, therefore, strong mother roles, men question their own responsibilities as fathers. They often grow up with a devalued opinion of the mother/father relationship in the family. They need good role models to be good fathers and good men. Often the needs of men are ignored and the emphasis is placed on the needs of women and children. Prof. Franklin gave the example of the Hurricane Katrina disaster relief rescue

teams who focused on rescuing women and children and often excluded the men, not treating them as part of the family. Men were more often considered suspects of looting rather than viewed as family caregivers. Prof. Franklin concluded by mentioning that many men were caught up in the institution of community and society but not the institution of family. He cited absent fathers as an epidemic in some parts of the world. He also emphasized that children are impacted by the mother/father relationship in the family.

The question of how to approach the different cultures about a new image of fatherhood was raised. All three speakers agreed that first there must be understanding of the relevant cultural traditions. Then people who can act as mediators and translators can help bridge the divide between the past and adopting practices that are best for children and families to be strong and healthy. A final comment was made, that the issue of women's wages in the workforce needed to be resolved in order to facilitate men spending more time with their children. 

# Activities Around the World in 2008

## WFWP Philippines

WFWP Philippines initiated sustainable community projects in partnership with the business sector and other NGO's this year.

### JANUARY 2008



*Donation of four wheelchairs and Gift bags to 200 poor children of Tanay*

In partnership with the Manila Hotel Corporation chaired by Don Emilio Yap, WFWP distributed 200 CARE bags with the following contents: World Map and Philippine Map, Umbrella, Cookies, Soap, Toothbrush/ Toothpaste, and Slippers to the marginalized children of Tanay. The ICEF (International Cultural and Educational Foundation) provided snacks for the children. WFWP-Philippines President Minerva A. De Leon and Honorary Chairperson, Judge Aurora N. Reciña awarded the 200 school bags. WFWP Philippines Directors present were VP for External Affairs, Ms. Norma J. Lozano, Secretary Hadja Alnajjar P. Lazo and Assistant Secretary Madonna A. Regio, BOD-Col. Lilia D. Revil and Ms. Madeliene Alfabeto. Our deepest gratitude to Chairman Emilio Yap and other donors.

### International Women's Day March 8, 2008

WFWP Philippines accepted the invitation from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to all Philippine NGO women leaders to celebrate International Women's Day at Malacañang Palace. WFWP Philippines VP for External Affairs, Ms. Norma J. Lozano; VP for Internal Affairs Bai Jamila Tamano; and adviser Ms. Rosilyn E. Magsaysay represented WFWP Philippines at the gala. Madam President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo emphasized the importance of solving the most urgent problems of women and strengthening progress toward achievement of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals to eradicate poverty and meet the basic needs of marginalized people. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assured all the women leaders present that a structure among the lead government agencies would be created to address these issues. Following the president's keynote, there was time for networking and introducing community projects to one another.

### February 2008



*Mauraro Bakery after typhoon Reming*

WFWP Philippines President Minerva A. De Leon together with Bicol-Chapter President Paz Allorde visited the two major projects funded by WFWP Philippines headquarters for the WFWP Albay Chapter.

1. Bakery Project: The Mauraro Bakery is still in operation at a minimal level since the devastation of typhoon Reming. A moratorium of one year on repayment was requested by the members and was promptly granted by the Executive Board of WFWP-Manila.

2. Candy Making: Members of the Pili Candy Club also requested a one year moratorium on

repayment due to typhoon Reming's devastation in the region. All stock of products was ruin by the strong typhoon. The request was granted.

Capacity Building- NCR and Region IV have created a partnership with Senator Manny Villar and Congresswoman Cynthia Villar Foundations through its Sipag at Tigaya (Work and Patience) caravan program. President Minerva A. de Leon and board members Ms. Mimi Docot and Sec. Hadja Alnahar P. Lazo met with Congresswoman Cynthia Villar to discuss the partnership. During the caravan outreach program, WFWP Philippines will train community members about capacity building and provide values formation education. MAV and CAV Foundation Inc. will provide livelihood training programs.

### March 2008 - Women's Month Service Project

BSK (Balikatan sa Kaunlaran) International Foundation donated 20 wheelchairs to WFWP Philippines.

20 WHEELCHAIRS were distributed as follows: WFWP-Pangasinan: 10 c/o VP Ms. Norma Lozano; WFWP-Tanay: 4 c/o Ms. Shirley Vergara; WFWP-Marawi: 2 c/o VP Bai Jamila Tamano; WFWP-Tarlac: 2 c/o Dr. Alma Wells; WFWP-Bicol: 1 c/o BOD, Ms. Arlene Jacobo; WFWP-Antipolo: 1 c/o BOD, Ms. Mimi Docot.



*Wheelchairs presented by BSK President Madam Guia G. Gomez to WFWP Philippines President Minerva A. De Leon*



*Some of the Wheelchair Recipients*



*WFWP Phil. Board Members at Malacanang Palace for 2008 Int'l Women's Day Celebration*



# Activities Around the World in 2008

## WFWP Japan

### WFWP Japan's Youth Volunteers for International Cooperation

Zambia Team: Joint project of WFWP Japan and USA

❖ August 2-10, 2008 ❖

2 Japanese participants and 5 American participants observed, studied and participated in the nutrition guidance classes Japanese Overseas Volunteers have sustained since 1995 at 3 medical centers in Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia, Africa.

Cambodia Team: "WFWP Children's Farm" Project

❖ August 18-27, 2008 ❖

10 participants created a broad bean field and a burdock field at the WFWP Children's Farm in support of a financial self-help project for the children living in this Self-Help Center for the Disabled in Siem Reab. Children grow broad bean and burdock and harvest them. The proceeds of the crops will pay for their school supplies and shoes.



All staff members and participants of ZAMBIA TEAM



Assisting the children's weight check before the classes



Participants presented the gifts from Japan to children of the Center



Helping a nutrition guidance class with a chart which volunteers made

"Dr. Livingstone, we presume!" In front of the statue of Dr. Livingstone standing beside Victoria falls, a World Heritage site →



Hoing and making ridges in a field



Participants after work on the field was completed

## WFWP Korea



Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon and WFWPI President, Dr. Young Moon Park at UNA of Korea July 3, 2008 Seoul Korea



Participants visited Angkor Wat temple complex, a World Heritage site

## Human Rights, contd from pg. 6

The goal of Friday's sessions was to offer an outlook on how to make better use of existing mechanisms for the protection of human rights at the international and national levels, as well as to examine ways to empower civil society at the local level. The morning roundtable was entitled, **Human Rights Education and Learning as a Way of Life**. With the launching of the International Year of Human Rights Learning on December 10, 2008 this session recognized the successful conflict/crime prevention and peace building functions of existing education for peace and human rights education programs. The goal is to integrate these programs into government, media, academic, faith-based and private sector institutions and to secure the root of this education at the community and family level.

### Government champions for NGO participation

A word must be said in closing, about the visionary and tireless support of civil society actors by certain governments' representatives over many years. This support was felt during the institution building first year of the Human Rights Council from Ambassador Luis A. de Alba and his predecessor, the last Human Rights Commission President, Ambassador Makarim Wibisono.

Former Special Assistant to the Secretary General (SASG) for Least Developed Nations, Ambassador A. Chowdhury spoke during several sessions. He is convinced that the fight



was worthwhile and progress had been made. Well known among women worldwide for having ushered in the adoption of SCR 1325 during his Security Council presidency and his numerous statements on the import of women's participation, he has only intensified his call. In a breakout session: The Institutional Aspects and the Role of Civil Society in Peace Building following the final roundtable on Addressing Gross Human Rights Violations: Prevention and Accountability, Ambassador Chowdhury confirmed once again his support for increased civil society involvement to optimize the functioning of UN mechanisms and institutions. He delineated seven areas where civil society, "the third leg of the table" could advance. He repeated several times, "you are too kind and polite" with the UN. "Don't be fooled, they need you. You should unite your forces and lobby for:

- 1) A much needed higher level mechanism within the UN secretariat for civil society relations.
- 2) An ongoing consultative mechanism on substance as was the case during the process in 2000 that led to SCR 1325.

- 3) A publicly announced mechanism for consultation with NGOs for the Peace building Commission (or it is doomed to fail).
- 4) Full involvement with the UN Secretariat for NGOs, including a Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for NGOs that guarantees real access to the Secretary General
- 5) Real substantive involvement of women's NGOs in crafting benchmarks (as in 1325)
- 6) Opportunities to increase knowledge, training and experience to facilitate and empower more pro-activity and persistence from NGOs.
- 7) UN funded 1325 implementation index."

Ambassador Chowdhury closed his presentation by saying that he is convinced that much time could be gained and resources saved if UN job requirements included a solemn commitment to the UN Charter's founding mandate. 

## HIV/AIDS, contd from pg. 3

sustain and step up our levels of commitment and financing."

In 2007, around USD 10 billion was made available for the global response to the epidemic but the shortfall between actual need and funds available was estimated to be around USD 8 billion. Many donor countries attending the meeting reiterated their support for the global response over the long term.

UNAIDS Executive Director Dr. Peter Piot stressed, "We cannot treat our way out of this epidemic. For every two people put on treatment, five are newly infected with HIV. Unless we act now, treatment queues will get longer and it will become more difficult to get anywhere near universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support".

Delegations made statements at plenary meetings in the afternoon and all day the second day. There was an Informal Interactive Civil Society Hearing on 10 June, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at Conference Room 4. The hearing provided an opportunity for an exchange of views between civil society and Member States and observers on various issues, with a particular focus on key priorities for civil society in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010.

Countries called upon UNAIDS to strengthen HIV prevention programs to better reflect local realities, increased political commitment and participation of civil society organizations in their response and encouraged massive scale-up of antiretroviral therapy. The need for greater financial accountability; the need to adapt HIV prevention programming to local contexts; the lack of effective programming directed to populations especially vulnerable to the disease (sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender populations and intravenous drug users); and the continued criminalization

## Innovation Fair, contd from pg. 1



WFWP International participated in the Innovation Fair's inaugural event last year in Geneva, also. It is a great privilege for WFWP International as an NGO in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC, to participate in ECOSOC's main event. We, the NGO community deeply appreciate the effort of NGO Section of DEŚA, led by Ms. Hanifa D. Mezoui, Chief of NGO Section for efforts



to involve ECOSOC NGOs in ECOSOC's most important annual event. There is no doubt that without civil society/NGOs' full participation in the discussion of the very crucial issues that ECOSOC faces, solutions will never be achieved. It is time for all of us, as one global family, to possess the awareness, commitment and sense of responsibility to build peace and eradicate poverty throughout the world. 



Deputy Chief of NGO Section, Ms. Federoff at WFWPI Booth



WFWPI Representatives at ECOSOC Chamber

HIV/AIDS, continued on pg. 12

## Women's Leadership, contd from pg. 4

cannot protect their children, it is an untenable situation. We are fighting to change laws that are discriminatory. Islam is misunderstood, and this also makes life difficult. The prophet insists that women and men both need education and knowledge.

Dr. Zoe Bennet, Women's Federation's Director for the Middle East opened Session Three, What kind of education is effective in promoting women's leadership? Dr. Natalie Mohamad Domloj, a young doctor from Lebanon, said that we women must be the change that we want to see. Women must choose between family and career/public responsibilities, but should be able to do both. Curricula need to be readjusted to changing priorities. Our society needs healing. Women can do that best, but they shouldn't get stuck in petty concerns. The best leadership education is the experience of leading even as a youth. Ms. Dakara Georgescu, from UNESCO's International Bureau of Education (IBE) asked the audience how we can best promote women's leadership, and answered: education. We have to organize curricula that foster leadership competencies and capacities of girls and boys.

Mrs. Noor Babad, Deputy Minister of Work and Social Affairs in Yemen explained that the Queen of Sheba was Yemenite who played an important role historically. Now, 80% of students in Yemen are boys. We have to challenge the masculine culture. Programs should be designed that include a vision of women as leaders. Ms. Barbara Stubble, educator in Character Education in Egypt explained the concept of a character based approach to education and how it has impacted the lives of violent and aggressive children who had no desire to learn. Change was more dramatic in younger students as they learned new life skills, based upon universally

accepted core values. Results are much better when parents are involved and children have already been instilled with an image of good character.

The first session on Day 2 was lead by Dr. Emel Dogramaci, Dean of Arts and Science Faculty at Kankaya University on the topic: **What are the important steps to be taken to improve women's leadership opportunities?**



Dr. Oya Talat, Director, Women's Patriotic Movement of North Cyprus opened the session by saying men and women should make decisions together to balance one another. Radicalism and ultra nationalism are dangerous, but seeds sown through women's common projects for the future can prevent such extremes. Working side by side and listening with open hearts is healing and can solve centuries of pain. Ms. Ayse Sozen, Coordinator of Foreign Affairs, Department of Justice and Development of Turkey expressed her desire that these conferences be held in the Middle East. Although ¼ of the Turkish Parliament is women, most have not been educated to advocate for necessary changes. Our campaign, "Girls to School" made it possible for 80% of girls to go to school.

Women have a natural talent for leadership, but may never recognize it, if not given opportunities to lead during the period when

their personality is developing - expressed H.E. Noora Nasser Al-Merekhi, Supreme Council on Family Affairs in Qatar. Education from early life is essential to improve capacity. If women don't strive to lead, they will not lead. In Qatar, people often prefer men leaders. We need a good feminine role model, like the first lady, to demonstrate feminine leadership. Palestinian panelist, Dr. Sherene Sekaily, Co-editor of the Arab Studies Journal described the long journey of women in Palestine and their courageous fight for gender equality and rights to education against a backdrop of hardship.

We want to be women against terror, building peace first in our minds. Women deserve to be the model of strength, continued Dr. Hiba Othman, Professor at the American University in Lebanon. Leadership is persistence, vision, overcoming obstacles, collaboration. Leadership is praising and awarding others. United, women will represent strength. The final speaker, Dr. Roya Kshefi, Human Rights Committee for the Association of Iranian Researchers, explained discrimination toward women in the application of Islamic law in Iran. Many prepared, strong, righteous women have been imprisoned for the "crime" of providing access to education for girls. The situation is degrading.

A report was given by Dr. Bennet, Nadina Theodorou and Fawziye Tayim about the recent humanitarian project of WFWPI in cooperation with government and civil society sources, to bring medicine to the Gaza strip. Palestinian Ambassador Mohamed Abu-Koash sent a message of thanks.

A series of recommendations and a Call to Action were drawn up and accepted by consensus in the closing ceremony. 

## Prevent Trafficking, contd from pg. 5

for migration. Amely James KOH BELA, President of NGO Mayina, is a world-wide specialist on human trafficking in Africa. She detailed why trafficking in Africa is so difficult to contain: weak penalties applied to human traffickers, the prestige of local promoters and the financial stakes. The United Nations office on development of crime analyzes that the 2.5 million victims of human trafficking in 2007 brought in 32 billion dollars in 2007. Parents agree to sell their children to Europe, Asia or America with the false notion that it will bring wealth and respectability to their families. Ms. Koh Bela insists that, "We have to go to Africa to change things".

Martina Theresa Coombs, WFWPI VP explained WFWPI's awareness campaign. It appeals to both women and men to prevent the exploitation of women at the earliest stages through fostering a better understanding of the innate "dignity of women". Education and

change of attitude begins in early childhood among family members. Ms. Coombs encouraged participants to protest against misuse of the feminine body and to stop the trend toward normalizing this misuse.

Session Two: Breaking the Glass Ceiling was chaired by Dr. Maria Riehl, WFWPI UN representative in Vienna. Ms. Saleha Begum Jaffer began, "Let us celebrate the fact that we are created as women!" She referred to a familiar message from her Indian roots; if you educate a man you educate a person. If you educate a woman, you educate the society. Ms. Jaffer mentioned the tragic instances of widow burning, bounty hunting, honor killings, forced marriages, dowry and suicide in India. She explained the glass ceiling that prevents women's dignified development and entreated all participants to promise that they help others to break this glass ceiling. Mrs. Ingrid Lindemann, President, WFWP Germany

expressed the need to create an awareness of dignity in human society, especially regarding women and girls, as a prevention to abuse. Throughout Europe, the media, advertisement and the fashion industry have misused the beauty of women, undermining and injuring the dignity of women. "Everyone is continually bombarded with a torrent of violence and sexual violence toward women in literature and film", she continued.

"Only as women and men together in equality and partnership can we overcome the difficulties, silence and desperation and secure the understanding, political will, creative thinking and concrete activities which are necessary for global transition from a culture of violence to a Culture of Peace." UNESCO on the contribution of women to a Culture of Peace.

Trafficking, continued on pg. 12

## EMPOWER TO ERADICATE POVERTY

Since 1994 WFWP has dispatched volunteers worldwide, to implement development assistance projects based on local needs.

Support the efforts of  
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New York, NY 10036, USA  
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For more information about projects, see Biennial Reports at [www.wfwp.org](http://www.wfwp.org)



WFWPI is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

*Kick the Habit, contd from pg. 2*  
monthly newsletter from National Geographic. Ms. Gordon reminded us of the power that corporations hold. But collective wisdom from people, especially concerned parents have changed and influenced corporate practices. Kicking the habit is very hard. It is so difficult to change behavior. Budget issues convince people to drive change forward. Ms. Gordon acknowledged that many media giants are already initiating education of the public. There are new trends in citizen action. In closing she offered some steps towards a greener world:

- Raise the air conditioner thermostat to 73 degrees in July.
- Unplug electrical appliances, including power strips
- Caulk and weatherproof homes
- Drive less
- Clean refrigerator coils
- Run the dishwasher only when full
- Keep car tires properly inflated
- Wash laundry in cold water
- Use Energy Star-rated appliances
- Do not buy bottled water
- Dry clothes on a rack instead of in the clothes dryer

One question was why little attention is given to livestock. For instance, sheep exhale methane. This is a great concern in New Zealand where there are more sheep than people. H.E. Banks replied that efforts are being made through researching best grazing practices. Another question was whether or not China or India is spreading awareness of the issue. In fact, China has greater auto fuel efficiency than the U.S. Ms. Horn mentioned that efforts are being made to make solar energy cheaper than coal. She believes that China will favor the cheapest alternative.

### HIV/AIDS, contd from pg. 3

of related behaviors were some of the challenges highlighted by all. Human rights and gender issues were singled out as imperative to an effective response. Leadership and political accountability were underlined as the most important part of the solution.

Five thematic panel events were held which provided an opportunity for in depth discussion, focusing on selected areas that require special attention to advance the response to HIV/AIDS. These events provided a forum for examining the progress made, promoted sharing of best practices and identified challenges and gaps and sustainable ways to overcome them.

#### The five themes were:

1. How do we build on results achieved and speed up progress towards universal access by 2010 – moving on to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015?
2. The challenges of providing leadership and political support in countries with concentrated epidemics.
3. Making the response to AIDS work for women and girls: gender equality and AIDS.  
The panel reviewed findings from country reports on the progress, or lack thereof, with regard to the feminization of the epidemic and gender equality barriers and proposed actions.
4. AIDS: A multi generational challenge – providing a robust and long term response. The panel examined critical linkages between the response to AIDS and long term development, strengthening of health systems, social protection, scientific innovation and the lethal combination of HIV and tuberculosis.
5. Resources and universal access: opportunities and limitations.  
The panel examined aspects of financing the response to AIDS, including sources of funding, resource allocation and spending, “making the money work”, accountability and predictable and multiyear funding. How can sustainable funding be assured at country level for the long term?

In conclusion, the global AIDS epidemic is far from over. Despite significant progress, the AIDS epidemic continues to outpace the response. The global AIDS epidemic continues to threaten economic and social development. While recognizing the significant progress in the AIDS response, there was renewed commitment by countries and civil society to work with UNAIDS and other partners to reach towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. “History will judge how effectively we rose to the challenge of AIDS,” said H.E. Srgjan Kerim, President of the UN General Assembly in his closing statement. “We must not lose the momentum of our global response.” (For more information, full text of programs and statements, see [www.un.org/ga/aidsmeeting2008](http://www.un.org/ga/aidsmeeting2008)).



### Aid Architecture, contd from pg. 3

Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, ECOSOC Support and Coordination, concluded that although we have heard many successful practices and had a very rich discussion, we still need to move to the next stage. Civil society must become inseparably involved in decision-making. We need to adopt the attitude that development is everybody's business. Mr. Seth asked the NGO community to participate actively in the council, enriching and influencing outcomes through constant interaction. We, the NGO community welcome the idea of a new ECOSOC which welcomes and encourages our participation more than ever.



### Trafficking, contd from pg. 11

60 international participants representing 11 European countries, as well as Japan, Gabon, Nigeria, Mongolia, China and India prepared a joint resolution with recommendations for United Nations, governments and civil society.



### Upcoming Events

- ❖ Oct. 16: World Food Day
- ❖ Oct 17: International Day of Eradication of Poverty
- ❖ Oct 24: United Nations Day
- ❖ Oct 22-26: WFWP 9th International Leaders' Workshop and Convention in Sydney
- ❖ Nov. 20: Universal Children's Day
- ❖ Nov. 21: WFWPI 4th Forum on the Eradication of Poverty UNHQ NYC, 3-6 PM Conf. Room 4
- ❖ Nov. 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- ❖ Dec. 1: World AIDS Day
- ❖ Dec. 10: Human Rights Day
- ❖ Mar. 2-13: 53rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)