



# Roundup



United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)  
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## General Assembly Hearings with NGOs, Civil Society and the Private Sector

### INTRODUCTION

From 23-24 June, the General Assembly held its first-ever informal interactive hearings with NGOs, civil society and the private sector. These hearings provided an opportunity for participants to comment on the Secretary-General's report *In Larger Freedom* and the draft outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of the September 2005 Summit.

This unprecedented event involved over 230 participants, of which 35 delivered statements, with an additional 360 NGO representatives attending the proceedings as observers. Through the creation of a UN trust fund—supported by the Governments of Canada, Finland and Norway—134 participants out of the 230 in attendance at the hearings were from developing countries. Several participants, especially those delivering statements, represented not only their organization, but also civil society networks dealing with the issues on which they were asked to comment.

Throughout the proceedings, participants raised a wide gamut of issues, ranging from gender equality, human rights and conflict prevention to aid, trade, debt and the environment. Human rights for women, gender equality, as well as sexual and reproductive rights, were recognized by participants as important issues—and as areas that received little attention in the draft outcome documents under review by Member States. There was broad consensus among participants that greater efforts should be taken to deepen the relationship between the UN and civil society. Whether in new institutional arrangements, such as the Peacebuilding Commission or the Human Rights Council, or existing mechanisms, NGOs underscored their desire to be included to a greater extent in discussions and implementation efforts.

The main discussion points and recommendations put forth by participants have been outlined in a summary produced by the President of the General Assembly. This summary is among the official GA documents to be considered by Member States in the run-up to the September Summit.

### BACKGROUND

The hearings provided—for the first time within the framework of the General Assembly—an opportunity for interaction between Member States and representatives

of NGOs, civil society and the private sector. In the past, the General Assembly, through its Special Sessions, had engaged with NGOs, civil society and the private sector giving them the opportunity to deliver statements on the issues at hand, but the hearings represented a fresh approach as it aimed to create an environment for interaction between parties, while showcasing the views of civil society in an organized fashion on multiple sets of issues.

The hearings were organized by the President of the General Assembly's 59th Session, Mr. Jean Ping (Gabon), in consultation with Member States and representatives from NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector. In preparation for the hearings, the President of the General Assembly established a task force of ten representatives from NGO, civil society and private sector networks. The task force assisted the President in designing the format of the hearing, including the selection process for speakers and participants. Also assisting in the hearings' process was the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS), which served as the "secretariat" for the proceedings and managed the funding for developing-country NGOs' travel to New York.

The themes for the hearings were based on the thematic clusters identified within the Secretary-General's report, *In Larger Freedom*, as well as issues regarding financing for development. Accordingly, the hearings were divided into five interactive sessions, with each setting out a specific set of issues to be addressed:

- b Freedom from Want—Millennium Development Goals 1-7;
- b Freedom from Want—Millennium Development Goal 8, and issues on Financing for Development;
- b Freedom from Fear, which had a segment on conflict prevention and another on peace and security;
- b Freedom to Live in Dignity; and
- b Strengthening the United Nations.

The framework for each interactive session allowed for a series of presentations delivered by representatives from NGOs, civil society and the private sector, followed by an interactive dialogue that enabled Member States and the other participants to make short interventions. All of the interactive sessions, except for the session on Financing for Development, were chaired by Mr. Ping, who was accompanied by guest moderators and rapporteurs from NGO and civil society organizations. The rapporteurs had the task of summarizing the outcome of each of the sessions,

while the moderators were there to assist the General Assembly President in his capacity as Chair.

#### OPENING PLENARY MEETING

A number of speakers were invited to address Member States and the 230 NGO, civil society and private sector representatives at the opening of the hearings, including the President of the General Assembly; UN Deputy Secretary-General, Louise Fréchette; and President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), Renate Bloem.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Ping underscored that the hearings aimed to gather the contributions of NGOs, civil society and the private sector for the World Summit being held from 14-16 September. Citing the findings of the panel of eminent persons chaired by Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brazil) on UN-civil society relations (A/58/817) released in June 2004, Mr. Ping emphasized that civil society would need to play a key role in addressing the threats and challenges facing today's world.

Similarly, Ms. Fréchette recognized that the hearings were a significant new step in the way the UN and Member States relate to civil society, and that the format could be used again as part of the General Assembly's efforts to further open up and interact with civil society. Ms. Fréchette also acknowledged that the GA President's decision to personally chair the proceedings was a testament to the importance Member States were attributing to these hearings.

Ms. Bloem stressed that representatives of NGOs, civil society and the private sector had come to the hearings prepared to offer their ideas and recommendations, often based on first-hand experience of the issues under review. She noted that civil society experience and competence in real-world issues was surely what led the Cardoso Panel to call for greater integration of civil society viewpoints within United Nations policy discussions.

#### FREEDOM TO LIVE IN DIGNITY

Mr. Ping chaired the interactive session on the Freedom to Live in Dignity, with Peggy Hicks (Human Rights Watch) serving as rapporteur and Cyril Ritchie (Environmental Liaison Center International) acting as moderator. Among the main issues addressed by speakers and participants during this session were human rights; children's rights; women's rights; sexual and reproductive rights; and the rule of law.

##### *Statements*

Eight representatives from NGOs, civil society and the private sector were invited to make opening statements.

Mohammed Al-Ghanim (Global Youth Action Network) said that neither security nor development could be achieved without human rights, and the right to live in dignity was a right for all people, especially for young people—a constituency which he felt had been barely mentioned in the Secretary-General's report.

As a representative from the private sector, Gareth Llewellyn (Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights) supported the proposal to designate a special representative on the matter of business and human rights. Two key areas to look into, he stressed, were the sphere of corporate influence and complicity in human rights violations. He also promoted the idea of pairing

small and medium businesses with corporations in order to link good business with sound human rights policies. Mr. Llewellyn encouraged businesses and governments to work together under the guidance of the United Nations to prevent complicity in human rights abuses.

Welcoming the Secretary-General's proposal to create a standing Human Rights Council, Yvonne Terlingen (Amnesty International) stressed that the new Council should build on the achievements of the Commission on Human Rights, while addressing its current weaknesses. She also pressed governments to reaffirm the human rights commitments they made over the course of the last 60 years, and urged them to commit to reach universal adherence to the core international human rights treaties and their protocols by 2015. Also speaking on human rights, Antoine Madelin (International Federation for Human Rights) referred to the frequent incapacity of the international community to react swiftly to the most egregious human rights violations. To address this gap, he continued, more could be done to strengthen the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) through the allocation of more financial resources and the promotion of a greater diversity of staff.

On the issue of women's rights, Charlotte Bunch (Center for Women's Global Leadership) said that their vigorous defence should be central in the outcome document of the September Summit. "If not at the 2005 Summit, when?" she asked. Ms. Bunch also stressed that women-specific entities in the United Nations needed to be adequately funded to mainstream women's issues into other programmes. Similarly, Betty Murungi (Urgent Action Fund for Africa) argued that gender inequality remained one of the most neglected areas in the many forms of human rights abuses. To overcome this trend, she recommended that new mechanisms of accountability be developed, with structures that promote inclusion and participation of civil society groups, especially those at the community level.

Broaching the issue of sexual and reproductive rights, Zonibel Woods (Association for Women's Rights in Development) said that over the course of her five-minute presentation, five women would die from child birth; deaths, she argued, which were a direct result of the failure to protect women's rights. She also spoke of the feminization of HIV/AIDS, as directly related to the abuse of women's rights.

On children's rights, Ratha Sourn (Commune Council Support Project in Cambodia) stated that the rates of women and children trafficking were still very high. According to the report of a local NGO, he noted, tens of thousands of children were working in Cambodia. Of those, 90% were female, with 80% of those being between the ages of 12-17.

##### *Interactive Dialogue*

During the discussion, a number of speakers stressed the need to include women, children, youth, and Indigenous People when discussing and taking action on human rights. One speaker emphasized the need to advance the rights of older men and women living in poverty and called for social pensions for older people to be a part of any national development plan. Several speakers called for the international community to commit itself to poverty reduction as a whole in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Another speaker called for the International Criminal Court to be strengthened so as to address the atrocities committed by transnational corporations across the world. A majority of participants underscored the responsibility of the United Nations to protect human rights and prevent genocide. Some called for strengthening and reforming the Office of

the High Commissioner for Human Rights, while others supported the establishment of a Human Rights Council within the UN.

The representative of Egypt was the first Member State to respond to concerns voiced by civil society speakers. He said material support for all the initiatives should be addressed through development efforts, and that more interactive work among all States, without artificial benchmarks or claims of supremacy, should take place at the UN.

Chile's representative said the atmosphere in the room was dynamic since many at the UN took for granted the importance of such issues as children's rights. He noted that human rights and national sovereignty were both central concerns at the United Nations, and that both were weighty with rights and responsibilities. He also recognized that the UN had a responsibility to protect and to contribute to help those most in need. Argentina's representative said he favoured the formation of a Human Rights Council. The UN must be central in the protection of human rights, he noted, and be in a position to intervene in areas where human rights were being violated.

The representative of Norway said he had taken note of the various views presented, especially the need to achieve gender equality in the context of the MDGs. Regarding the "responsibility to protect," he said that while some believed that the document had not gone far enough, it was necessary to recognize how far Member States had actually come in terms of having language on the issue. Germany's representative said the proposal for a Human Rights Council was very important, and called on NGO representatives to recommend how such a new body should be structured. Canada's representative expressed her country's strong commitment to multilateralism, civil society partnerships and coordination, and added that she was pleased to see a broad representation at the meeting.

In summary, the rapporteur, Ms. Hicks, said Member States had stressed the interrelationship between security, development and human rights, and said that human rights were a foundation to security and development. Participants had emphasized the need to elevate human rights to the principal role of the United Nations, as well as the importance of civil society access in involvement both in the current process and in the work of the United Nations more generally. Numerous participants, she said, had also called for the strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as for a doubling of resources for that Office within five years and a strengthening of the Office's field presence and presence in New York.

#### **FREEDOM FROM WANT—MDGS 1 THROUGH 7**

As Chair of this session, Mr. Ping facilitated the proceedings, with Shannon Kowalski (Family Care International) serving as rapporteur and Aruna Rao (Gender at Work) as moderator. Speakers and participants focused on the issues of gender equality, the environment, health and HIV/AIDS, as well as participation and inclusion in decision-making processes, with special attention on generating support for a human rights based approach to development.

#### **Statements**

Articulating key messages and recommendations emanating from local communities and Indigenous Peoples' representatives who participated in the

Community Commons event organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in early June 2005, Gladman Chibememe (Africa 2000 and the Network Foundation) argued that communities could play a greater role in the planning and implementation of the MDGs through the creation of task forces at the global, national and grassroots level. Mr. Chibememe also called on the UN, Member States and development agencies to earmark 25% of their resources to community-based organizations.

Mirna Cunningham (MADRE) emphasized that for women it is crucial that the MDGs address their right to own and inherit property, sexual and reproductive health rights, violence—including ethnic and gender based disadvantages and discriminations—and life long intercultural education to reduce poverty and counter discrimination. She also noted that the implementation of MDGs should be consistent with internationally recognized human rights of women and Indigenous Peoples, recalling the indivisibility of human rights.

Conveying her disappointment in the draft outcome document's treatment of women's rights, Geeta Rao Gupta (International Center for Research on Women) stated that development policies and actions that fail to take gender equality into account and fail to address the disparities between men and women will have limited effectiveness and serious cost implications. Ms. Gupta also underscored some of the recommendations made by the Millennium Project Task Force on gender, which, among others, included: strengthening post-primary education access for girls, guaranteeing women and girl's property and inheritance rights, and increasing women's share in national parliaments and local government bodies.

Torleif Jonasson (UNA-Denmark) recommended that sustainable development be mainstreamed across all MDGs. He argued that new official MDG targets and indicators could be created to better reflect the outcome of the Johannesburg Summit, including targets that establish a link between sustainable policies, national poverty reduction plans and their budgeting processes with all MDGs. Yaa Ntiama-Baidu (Worldwide Fund for Nature International) said that there could be no peace without equitable development, and no development without sustainable management. MDG-7 was the only goal with direct links to environmental issues, and shamefully it was where the governments of the world were not measuring up, she said.

While Isagani Serrano (Philippines Rural Reconstruction Movement) agreed with the Secretary-General's report that the world has seen a dramatic reduction in poverty in the last three decades, he argued that the jury was still out as to whether we have a more just, equal world. Mr. Serrano also called attention to dangers being created by climate change and the need to reverse some of the alarming trends associated with it.

As a representative from the private sector, Jacqueline Cote (World Business Council for Sustainable Development) outlined three steps to increase poor peoples' participation in the global market at the local level: improve regulatory framework for participation; promote entrepreneurship; and invest in building the infrastructure for participation by such steps as building roads.

#### **Interactive Dialogue**

HIV/AIDS figured as a central point of discussion during the interactive dialogue. Several participants drew attention to prevention efforts by encouraging governments to invest in education and information dissemination, while creating the opportunity for people afflicted with the disease to take part in decision making.



One of the participants called for effective universal access to a continuum of care and treatment for HIV/AIDS patients (including psychosocial and economic support), as called for in the World Health Organization (WHO) Treatment Protocol. Pointing to the feminization of HIV/AIDS, calls were made to better protect the reproductive and sexual rights of women, with a special focus on young people.

Participants also focused on the environment and called on governments to devote a larger share of new official development assistance (ODA) flows to environmental sustainability, as well as to recommit to the Rio Declaration, particularly its precautionary principle, safeguarding against harmful effects of new technologies, such as genetically modified organisms and nanotechnologies. Speakers also urged Member States to provide greater support for the Integrated Water Resource Management, a doubling of aid for water and sanitation by 2010 and the integration of human settlements in development strategies. Participants recommended the bolstering of institutional mechanisms that promote coherence among local, national and regional frameworks that support local pro-poor and pro-environment initiatives, and called for the creation of a World Environment Organization.

Responding to comments, Tunisia's representative welcomed the emphasis on the wording of "eradicating" poverty rather than merely "reducing" it. Sweden's representative said that the MDGs served as both a road map and a yardstick for measuring progress on the development targets. Each country, the representative noted, should monitor itself to see how well they were doing in reaching the aims. Luxembourg's representative, speaking on behalf of the European Union and associated States, supported the European Commission's decision to increase its support for development by 2015 to 20 million euros per year. Chile's representative said the atmosphere in the room was charged with the electricity of civil society's involvement. The involvement of civil society members, he stressed, gave the United Nations a conscience. "Please be patient with us," he added.

Closing the session, Ms. Kowalski, in her capacity as rapporteur, drew on the salient points made during the session. The participants, she said, stressed that the MDGs cannot be achieved in isolation; they must be addressed together in a way that is mutually reinforcing. She noted that several speakers called for the inclusion of young people in decision making and that young people should be more integrated in the planning and implementation of development policies and strategies of their countries. Greater integration of other constituencies in decision making was also urged, she said, especially that of Indigenous Peoples, older persons and people with disabilities—groups which many felt had been undervalued in the draft outcome document.

#### **FREEDOM FROM WANT—MDG 8 AND ISSUES ON FFD**

Chairing the session on Freedom from Want—MDG 8 and issues on Financing for Development was General Assembly Vice-President, Fayssal Mekdad (Syria), with John Langmore (UNA-Australia) serving as rapporteur and Ester Aguilera (National Association of Economists and Accountants of Cuba) acting as moderator. Aid, international trade, debt cancellation/relief, and foreign direct investment (FDI) were the leading issues discussed by speakers and participants.

#### **Statements**

Peggy Antrobus (Development Alternatives for Women

for a New Era) said women's networks wanted to stress the indivisibility of the eight MDGs and that women's equality and empowerment were cross-cutting issues. She argued that Goal-8 was full of contradictions, including that trade liberalization could solve the problem of poverty, and called on governments to recognize that neo-liberal policies had actually exacerbated the problems they were supposed to address. In a similar vein, Roberto Bissio (Instituto del Tercer Mundo) stated that less than 7% of aid went to women. He further argued that the general trends indicated that social progress had slowed since 1999.

Addressing the systemic problems related to poverty, Mama Koite (African Women's Development and Communication Network) said that income distribution was the origin of poverty, which was also rooted in ethnic marginalization. She also stressed that economic growth was not a solution, in itself, to poverty because growth often came at the expense of rights violations and inequality. On Africa's development, Marie-Mathilde Manga (Africa's Women's Association) said that African countries had to take their fate in their own hands. The continent's development, she underscored, had to come from within and not without; albeit, with some help, especially from UN programmes—such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

Jens Martens (Global Policy Forum) drew attention to the growing gap between military expenditures and ODA, which he referred to as scandalous. In May 2005, the EU had adopted a binding timetable to increase ODA. He welcomed that decision and asked other countries to follow suit. On the issue of UN reform, Saradha Ramaswamy Iyer (Third World Network) pressed for a strengthening of the Economic and Social Council so that World Bank, World Trade Organization (WTO) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) policies would be in tune with UN values and norms. Failure to do so would be tantamount to the "business as usual" scenario, she stressed.

Speaking for the private sector, Ronnie Goldberg (International Organization of Employers and the International Chamber of Commerce) emphasized that while governments had the main responsibility to eradicate poverty, continued efforts and partnerships by all actors were required. Without a healthy private sector, she noted, there could be no sustainable poverty eradication.

#### **Interactive Dialogue**

Several speakers drew attention to the "disconnect" between national and international economic policies. Despite the merits of trade liberalization, some noted that the scope of trade liberalization was relevant in different ways to different country markets. The question of releasing resources through debt relief and aid was recognized by participants as very important, but the "straitjacket" of what constituted acceptable policies should also be lifted. Drawing attention to certain omissions in the draft, one participant cited paragraph 26—the Africa section—in which no mention had been made of the importance of having nationally specific and relevant strategies. On financing for development, aid effectiveness had been underscored, but the importance of local ownership had been glossed over.

Addressing the needs of youth and children, another civil society representative noted that some 55% of all people living on US\$2 a day were under the age of 21. If the needs of children and youth were not addressed, the Goals would not be achieved. He hoped the outcome document would include wording on the needs of young people and children.

The representative of the United Kingdom recognized that civil society was playing a critical role in mobilizing support behind the development agenda. While progress had been made, he said, more was needed, especially in the area of trade and aid. The representative stressed that leaders needed to mandate their trade representatives to make breakthroughs. In reference to the Paris Declaration, he reminded those present that discussions on aid effectiveness should refer to less conditionalities for developing countries, and not more.

The US representative said his delegation had been supportive of the meeting and enthused to see the participation between civil society and governments. The representative underscored that his country had a 60-year history of providing development assistance and would continue to do so.

Addressing the issue of debt, the representative of Zambia said he believed that trade rather than aid was the way for Africa to break donor dependence. There was a disease called “donor fatigue,” he argued, and Africans needed to stand on their own feet. The representative also discussed the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its effect on Africa. Another issue raised was the brain drain. African intellectuals, the representative noted, were “leaving en masse.” The people driving taxis in Europe and America were the people who were supposed to be driving the African economies.

The representative of Luxembourg, on behalf of the EU, said development was a shared responsibility and therefore more and better aid would be needed to reach the MDGs. On the definition of what constituted ODA, the representative stressed that it was a matter of international agreement and was in no way something countries could agree upon on their own. As for trade, the representative recognized that it was a driving force of economic growth and development, and the European Union was committed to the Doha development round.

Japan’s representative said his country was one of the donors that had not reached the 0.7% target. He noted that his country would strive to realize the strategic expansion of its overall ODA volume. Recognizing that trade was the engine of development, the representative noted that Japan’s imports from developing countries were among the highest of the ODA countries, but this did not mean that fairness in trade rules could not be improved.

A number of other delegations also took the floor.

#### **FREEDOM FROM FEAR—SEGMENT ON CONFLICT PREVENTION**

This session was chaired by the GA President, with Rik Panganiban (Millennium+5 NGO Network) serving as rapporteur and Paul van Tongeren (European Centre for Conflict Prevention) acting as moderator. Among the main issues addressed by speakers and participants during this session were the Peacebuilding Commission, responsibility to protect, the role of civil society in conflict prevention, and gender mainstreaming.

#### **Statements**

Speaking on the issue of human security, Catherine Barnes (Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict–GPPAC) said the sustainable security of States could only be based on the security of people and welcomed the recognition given by the Secretary-General and the GA draft outcome document to the interconnectedness of threats and the need to simultaneously advance development, security and human rights. In looking at the case of Africa,

Emmanuel Bombande (West Africa Network for Peacebuilding) said that support of capacity building for peace is vital to the development of freedom from fear in Africa. The attitude towards peace in Africa must turn from reactive to proactive, and the African Union’s efforts must be concretely supported, including by the African diaspora, he stressed.

Speaking on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, Vina Nadjibulla (General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church and Ecumenical Women Coalition) stressed that today’s wars were fought not only on the ground, but on women’s bodies through gender-based violence. Impunity for such violence must be stopped and the outcome document should be strengthened in terms of accountability for violence, she urged.

Samuel Rizk (GPPAC) recognized that the hearings had provided an opportunity for direct interaction, but he recommended that the UN convene further sessions to provide space specifically regarding the prevention of armed conflict and conflict resolution. He added that the role of civil society in peacebuilding deserved more than a “disclaimer” at the end of the draft outcome document.

#### **Interactive Dialogue**

Numerous speakers endorsed the creation of a UN Peacebuilding Commission as recommended by the Secretary-General, saying it should recognize the role of civil society in building lasting structures for peace. Expanding on the role of civil society in conflict prevention, several participants emphasized civil society organizations’ role in early warning, development, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, disarmament and reintegration. Their involvement, some suggested, was no longer an option, but a necessity, as stated in the Cardoso Panel report.

Also underscored was the need to recognize the role of young people in resolving conflicts and building peace in the outcome document. Member States, participants stressed, needed to recognize the importance of young people in promoting peace and facilitate their inclusion in decision-making processes. There was also a call to include persons with disabilities in peacebuilding efforts and other UN decision-making processes relating to conflict prevention.

On the issue of gender, speakers noted that the outcome document contained a mere paragraph on the contributions of women to peacebuilding when they were, in fact, an integral part as they were the most adversely affected by violence committed with impunity. One of the recommendations made during the session called for the draft document to promote stronger measures to reinforce an end to impunity for gender-based violence.

Responding to comments, Sweden’s representative said that what could be learned from civil society organizations in the field was impressive. The world, he noted, was facing a test of multilateralism. He urged Member States to develop ways to provide multilateral approaches, or else “other roads would be chosen.” Egypt’s representative called for interactive meetings to be held annually and said that the main obstacle to peace was not just the lack of mechanisms, but also the absence of political will. There were mechanisms in the form of resolutions, but the problem was that they were not being implemented.

South Africa’s representative, endorsing the call for the hearings to be held annually in preparation for the GA, said the role of women in conflict prevention was a very important element as they made a fundamental

contribution to peacebuilding efforts. South Africa could not have succeeded in its own conflict resolution without their involvement, he noted. There was also a need for more involvement generally of civil society organizations in conflict prevention at the regional level, and several initiatives in that sense were being implemented in South Africa.

Summarizing the discussion, the rapporteur, Mr. Panganiban, said that strong calls for a shift from “reaction to prevention” regarding armed conflict had been made. Several interventions from both governments and civil society, he added, had emphasized the important role of civil society organizations in conflict prevention and resolution, with women being highlighted as critical actors. There was a special emphasis on the regions of Africa and the Middle East, including the call for more resources to strengthen conflict-prevention mechanisms, end poverty, ensure good governance and support strong regional institutions.

#### **FREEDOM FROM FEAR—SEGMENT ON PEACE AND SECURITY**

For the segment on Peace and Security, Doris Mpoumou (Women’s Environment and Development Organization), served as rapporteur and Minar Pimple (People’s Decade of Human Rights Education) moderated the proceedings, with Mr. Ping chairing. Presentations and discussions focused on the issues of human security; nuclear weapons and disarmament; small arms; the use of force; post-conflict reconstruction; and Indigenous Peoples.

#### **Statements**

On the issue of disarmament, Laurence Bropleh (Commission of the Churches on International Affairs and the World Council of Churches) recommended that the nuclear States break the deadlock at the Conference on Disarmament and commence negotiations for a ban on production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons. Bernice Romero (Oxfam International) said that the commitments outlined in the latest version of the draft outcome document could and must be stronger on the responsibility to protect civilians in armed conflict, and on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The document, she added, failed to reflect the existing responsibilities of arms-exporting States to ensure that their exports were not misused for human rights violations, breaches of international humanitarian law, or to otherwise undermine the security and development of people and their communities.

Speaking on behalf of the private sector, Ambassador John Maresca (US, Business Humanitarian Forum Council), said the role of the private sector could be especially effective in post-conflict reconstruction. He underscored that the involvement of locally owned small- and medium-sized businesses was of particular significance as they offered meaningful, sustainable jobs to local people. The United Nations, he noted, could play a more active role to engage these types of businesses if it determined to do so.

Drawing attention to the plight of Indigenous Peoples, Merlie Mendoza (Assisi Development Foundation) stressed that a human security framework for Indigenous Peoples should focus on community empowerment to strengthen indigenous organizations and leaders for self-determination and self-governance.

Focusing on the security of women, Teresa Ulloa (Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd) said there could be no security until their personal safety was assured. She recommended that the

draft outcome document address that point adequately. If UN documents, she noted, did not give weight to cross-cutting measures protecting women, how would the mechanisms be included elsewhere? On institutional mechanisms, Ms. Ulloa argued that women’s rights were given smaller budgets and fewer resources than others in UN programming.

#### **Interactive Dialogue**

Several speakers said that women and girls were hidden victims of armed conflict. They were killed, tortured, raped and maimed in zones of conflict—a problem that participants wanted the draft outcome document to address. Children’s rights were also brought up, with one speaker saying that funding to protect children in armed conflict situations was as important as the funding of any other measures. Small arms control and disarmament were also discussed, with some participants calling for the adoption of a legally binding system that will make it possible to trace the origin and transfer of millions of small arms, light weapons, and ammunition that are traded worldwide.

On the use of force, speakers called on Member States to use force only as a last resort and identify and agree on clear guiding rules and principles on doing so. Countries in conflict, it was stressed, should receive equal attention regardless of geographic situation or economic interests of permanent members of the Security Council. There also was a call for targeted, rather than blanket sanctions, and for fair and transparent procedures for applying and lifting sanctions, with clear recognition of their devastating impact on the lives of civilians. On the question of multilateralism, the representative of Chile emphasized that issues of peace and security should be addressed at the UN as it was the appropriate forum in which to manage these questions in a controlled and manageable manner and according to formalized rules.

Pakistan’s representative thanked civil society members for being exemplary global citizens and encouraged them to promote awareness of the MDGs in their home countries and local communities.

The representative of Cameroon said human beings must remain at the centre of all concerns and agreed with other speakers that it was necessary to take this into account for the September Summit. Referring to an earlier speaker, who had been overcome by emotion while delivering her statement, he said that the image sent a message that could leave no one indifferent, and which was heard by all.

In her summary of the second segment, Ms. Mpoumou, rapporteur, said that what truly came out in the discussion was the sense of urgency to act immediately, and that, therefore, the Millennium Review Summit in September represented an opportunity to take specific actions so that everyone could live free of fear. Another point alluded to several times, she noted, was the responsibility to protect populations, particularly the most vulnerable, including women, children, refugees and aboriginal peoples. Their needs, as well as their role, must be taken into account if Member States wished to meet the concerns on the agenda, she said.

#### **STRENGTHENING THE UN: INSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

Mr. Ping chaired the session on Strengthening the UN, with Mary Racelis (Ateneo de Manila University) as the moderator and Pera Wells (World Federation of United Nations Associations) as rapporteur. Speakers and participants focused on the main proposals for institutional



reform at the UN, including those affecting the Security Council, Economic and Social Council, General Assembly and the UN Secretariat. The creation of the Human Rights Council also generated much discussion.

### **Statements**

Lydia Alpizar (Association for Women's Rights in Development) recommended that Member States should ratify all existing normative human rights instruments, and submit periodical reports to treaty bodies at the UN. These reports, she added, must remain consistent with the Commission on Human Rights guidelines, or those of the new Human Rights Council. On gender equality, Ms. Alpizar noted that the UN was far from reaching its targets, especially with regards to women in senior-level posts.

While acknowledging the need for urgent reform of the Security Council, Roberto Eghrari (Baha'i International Community) emphasized that the proposals in the Secretary-General's report and the draft outcome document failed to address the democracy deficit and relentless politicization of the Council. Similarly, William Pace (World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy) argued that the expansion of the Security Council was an important goal, especially in revitalizing the Council's representivity and legitimacy. However, he opposed adding more vetoes or permanent members to the Council. Permanent membership, he added, has resulted in dysfunction and inefficacy. As the world becomes more democratic this imperial anachronism must be discarded, he said. In reference to UN-civil society relations, Mr. Pace stressed that the Millennium Summit and the Millennium Plus 5 process had largely been symbolic in terms of NGO engagement, and were a retreat from the major advances achieved in UN treaty and world conference processes over the last 17 years.

On the creation of a Human Rights Council, Gay McDougall (Global Rights Partners for Justice) said the Council must be able to alert the Security Council directly when urgent action was needed. It was also imperative, she said, that the Council guarantee a seat at the table for the ongoing, substantive participation of NGOs.

Christiane Overkamp (Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité) gave support to the strengthening of ECOSOC and welcomed the call of the Secretary-General to establish an executive committee. Ultimately, she added, a high-level body for economic and social issues under the umbrella of the UN was needed, and she believed that a comprehensive and uniform agenda also needed to address the relationship between the United Nations and other international financial institutions (IFIs). The participation of civil society in monetary governance was crucial, and she expressed regret that the current document did not call for more participation by civil society.

Echoing Ms. Overkamp's remarks, Rashed Titumir (Innovators Centre for Research and Action on Development) noted that the UN's effectiveness would remain elusive unless a reinvention of the World Bank and the WTO take place. The report, he said, did not propose in tangible terms a coordination mechanism with enforcement power over all intergovernmental organizations or recommend an independent structure to monitor and assess the performance of agencies.

Paul Tennessee (World Confederation of Labour) recommended the adoption at the September Summit of a ninth Millennium Development Goal, that of Decent Work. There is widespread evidence, he suggested, that jobless growth and growth without development is the reality of most nation-states. On behalf of labour organizations, he recommended that there should be a

Memorandum of Agreement in which the policies of the IFIs and the WTO be examined against the norms and standards that have emanated from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the conferences of Copenhagen, WSSD, Beijing and the Human Rights Commission, to verify whether there are violations and agree on what remedial actions are necessary. He also stressed that Member States at the UN should keep in mind that "vision without implementation is hallucination."

### **Interactive Dialogue**

There was broad agreement among participants that the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly in September should reaffirm the centrality of the General Assembly as the most representative deliberative policy-making organ of the UN. Many participants were also of the view that a strengthened UN required stronger and deeper relations with civil society at large. Specific proposals included institutionalizing the General Assembly's hearings with civil society and holding them on an annual basis, as well as ensuring civil society's access to the sessions of the Assembly and other organs.

In commenting on how to reform the Security Council, there were calls for ending both the veto and permanent membership, increasing the number of members and above all improving the working methods of the Council, notably the Arria Formula, to provide longer lead times for NGO participation and increased funding for NGO and civil society engagement at the country level.

On the UN Secretariat, participants appealed for substantially increasing the financial resources of the United Nations and for strengthening the Secretariat's independence and security of employment. In the interest of transparency, it was also proposed that the United Nations create an Ombudsman to oversee the achievement of the MDGs and support community task forces to monitor and report on the implementation of these goals at the local level.

A number of speakers encouraged cooperation between governments and civil society organizations. France's representative noted that it was useful to hear civil society because Member States were coming close to the last stages before the Summit and were fully ready to take into account all of the views put forward. He believed that Member States should fight for a consolidation of peace, and that they should also fight for a Human Rights Council, which would help to place human rights at the focal point of thinking, while preserving what was good in the Human Rights Commission.

Germany's representative said he was encouraged by the participation in the meeting, suggesting that there should be a strengthening of the relationship between the UN, Member States and civil society as civil society was almost like a "service tool" for Member States to receive and be confronted with new ideas. He stressed that Member States should look again and find a way to incorporate civil society and have it be heard during the September Summit. He further supported having civil society be heard in the deliberations and discussions in the General Assembly. Mexico's representative said she believed that the meeting served as a reminder from civil society as to where the priorities of Member States should rest. She added that there was not yet any consensus regarding the Human Rights Commission, and on making it more effective. She also echoed the sentiments of other delegations that supported the need for such a type of interactive debate.

Peru's representative said that Member States had gained a great deal from the interactive debates in preparation for the September meetings. Furthermore, it was

necessary for governments to keep their promise to their people. The meetings also offered an opportunity to share concerns on improving human rights and security and increasing development, and ensured that such concerns would once again become the focus of thinking.

In her summary remarks, the rapporteur, Ms. Wells, noted that participants attached importance to an inclusive participatory process for the follow up of the Summit declaration. Noting that the draft outcome document envisaged negotiations on about 40 issues, participants called for the General Assembly to resume consultative, treaty, conference and prep-com modalities of participation of NGOs, particularly for the negotiations on the Human Rights Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, a binding instrument regulating small arms and the responsibility to protect. Looking forward to the success of the Summit, she concluded, an appeal was made to all Member States to include a young person in their delegations.

### CLOSING SESSION

Addressing the participants, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan noted the large number of Member States in attendance and called on civil society participants to keep making their voices heard in the lead-up to the September Summit, as well as to hold governments' feet to the fire in terms of their commitments. Mr. Annan said he hoped the interactive format, between Member States and civil society, would continue. On every issue that would be taken up at the Summit—whether it was the fight against HIV/AIDS or preventing armed conflict—a close relationship between civil society and the United Nations would be required, he stressed. "You're essential partners," he told participants at the hearings.

The General Assembly President, Mr. Jean Ping, closed the two-day hearings by emphasizing that there was no doubt the debate would contribute greatly to the consultations presently being held among Member States on the outcome document for the September Summit. He said he had taken note of the different perspectives and broad range of questions that had been broached during the hearings, some of which, he acknowledged, did not appear in the draft document presented to the General Assembly.

The impact of hearings reached beyond the event itself. As Member States continued their negotiations of the draft outcome document, new language was introduced based on recommendations made by NGOs, civil society and the private sector through the President of the General Assembly's Summary of the hearings.

For the section on environment protection, new references to "sustainable production and consumption patterns" and action-oriented language on water and sanitation were introduced. Also added in the outcome document, under the section "Global Partnership for Development," was language on enhancing the role of NGOs, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts. In the text, Member States also welcomed the dialogue with NGOs, civil society and the private sector that was generated at the informal interactive hearings.

Regarding women's issues, a number of references were inserted, including language on: women in armed conflict; participation of women in decision making; and strengthening the UN system's capacities in the area of gender. As for human rights, a mention of the violation of women and girl's human rights in situations of conflict was added, as well as a reference on the promotion of human rights education. Further language was introduced on the mainstreaming of human rights in the UN system, with special attention to women and children, and a call to double regular budget resources for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights over the next five years.

### Related Documents

*Draft outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005:*  
([www.un.org/ga/president/59/draft\\_outcome.htm](http://www.un.org/ga/president/59/draft_outcome.htm)).

*Summary by the President of the General Assembly:*  
([www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearing-advance-unedited-summary-21july.doc](http://www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearing-advance-unedited-summary-21july.doc)).

*Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations–Civil Society Relations We the peoples: civil society, the United Nations and Global Governance:*  
([www.un-ngls.org/Final%20report%20-%20HLP.doc](http://www.un-ngls.org/Final%20report%20-%20HLP.doc)).

*Summary of session Freedom to Live in Dignity:* ([www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearings-dignity.htm](http://www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearings-dignity.htm)).

*Summary of session Freedom from Want—MDGs 1-7:*  
([www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearings-want.htm](http://www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearings-want.htm)).

*General Assembly Press Releases 10358, 10359 and 10361:*  
([www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/ga10358.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/ga10358.doc.htm); [www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/ga10359.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/ga10359.doc.htm); and [www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/ga10361.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/ga10361.doc.htm)).

*Freedom from Fear—Segment on Peace and Security:*  
([www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearings-fear.htm](http://www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearings-fear.htm)).

*Rapporteur's summary on Freedom from Fear—Segment on Conflict Prevention:* ([www.un-ngls.org/GA/Fear%20-%20Prevention%20of%20Armed%20Conflict.doc](http://www.un-ngls.org/GA/Fear%20-%20Prevention%20of%20Armed%20Conflict.doc)).

*Rapporteur's summary on Freedom from Fear—Second Segment (available in French only)* ([www.un-ngls.org/GA/Fear-Second%20Segment.doc](http://www.un-ngls.org/GA/Fear-Second%20Segment.doc)).

*Rapporteur's summary on Strengthening the UN:* ([www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearings-strengthen.htm](http://www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearings-strengthen.htm)).

*A full listing of organizations that participated in the hearings from 23-24 June is provided in the online Roundup* ([www.un-ngls.org](http://www.un-ngls.org)).

**See the List of Organizations that participated in the hearings on 23-24 June 2005, on pages 9 & 10**

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## List of Organizations that participated in the hearings on 23-24 June 2005 (in alphabetical order):

- b Action Aid Malawi [Malawi]
- b Action Health Incorporated [Nigeria]
- b Africa 2000 + Network Foundation [Zimbabwe]
- b African Coalition of NGOs for Children [Senegal]
- b African Movement of Working Children and Youth [Senegal]
- b African Network Campaign on Education For All [Uganda]
- b African Regional Youth Initiative [United Republic of Tanzania]
- b African Women's Development and Communication Network/FEMNET [Mali]
- b African's Women Association [Cameroon]
- b Agir Ici [France]
- b Al-Khoei Foundation [Pakistan/UK]
- b All for Reparations and Emancipation (AFRE) [Cameroon]
- b American Association Of Jurists [USA]
- b Amnesty International [United Kingdom]
- b Amnesty International [USA]
- b Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)
- b Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) [Egypt]
- b Asia Pacific Women's Watch [India]
- b Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population & Development (AFPPD) [Thailand]
- b Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women Bangladesh
- b Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education [India]
- b Assisi Development Foundation, Inc. [Philippines]
- b Asociacion Nacional de Economistas y Contadores de Cuba [Cuba]
- b Association for Progressive Communications [South Africa]
- b Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), [Mexico]
- b Association for Women's Rights in Development [El Salvador/Canada]
- b ATD 4th World [France]
  
- b Baha'i International Community [Brazil]
- b Baha'i International Community [Switzerland]
- b BirdLife International [Guyana]
- b Business Humanitarian forum Council [USA/Switzerland]
- b Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights [United Kingdom]
  
- b Canadian Council of International Cooperation [Canada]
- b Caribbean Youth Environment Network [St. Lucia]
- b Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) [Nigeria]
- b Center for International Health and Cooperation [Colombia/US]
- b Center for War/Peace Studies [Chile]
- b Center for Women's Global Leadership [USA]
- b Center of Concern [USA]
- b Centre de Solidarite pour une Nouvelle Vie [Mauritius]
- b Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy [Cameroon]
- b Centro de Promocion y Salud Integral (Comunidad de Loretto) [Bolivia]
- b Centro Para el Desarrollo Urbano y Rural [Peru]
- b City Montessori School [India]
- b Civil Society Coalition Against Water Privatization [Nigeria]
- b Civil Society Organization Network for Development [Burkina Faso]
- b Commission of the Churches on International Affairs [Norway]
- b Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, World Council of Churches [Liberia/USA]
- b Commune Council Support Project (CCSP) and Cambodia Millennium Campaign [Cambodia]
- b Concerned Women for Family Development [Bangladesh]
- b Confederation of Public Service Unions [Cameroon]
- b Conference of NGOs [Germany]
- b Conference of NGOs [USA]
- b Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd [Mexico]
- b Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE) [Germany/Belgium]
- b Cuban Association of United Nations [Cuba]
  
- b DECA Equipo Pueblo, A.C. [Mexico]
- b Development Alternatives for Women for a New Era [Barbados]
  
- b ECPP [Netherlands]
- b Educación Popular Mujeres América Latina Caribe (REPEM) [Uruguay]
- b Education International (E I) [Trinidad and Tobago]
- b Environmental Ambassadors [Serbia/Montenegro]
- b Environmental Liaison Center International [Ireland]
- b Environmental Liaison Centre International [Kenya]
- b Espace Associatif [Morocco]
- b European Solidarity Towards Equal Participation of People (EUROSTEP) [Belgium]
  
- b Family Care International [Australia]
- b Family Care International [Burkina Faso]
- b Federation des travailleurs de Belgique [Belgium]
- b Federation of Association of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS),
- b Foro Para la Participación Ciudadana por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos [Argentina]
- b Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action [Australia]
- b Foundation of Revitalization of Local Health Traditions [India]
- b Freedom House [USA]
- b Friends World Committee for Consultation [USA]
- b Fundacion Andes Chinchasuyo [Ecuador]
- b Fundacion Parala Promocion del Indigena [Panama]
- b Fundacion "Pajara Pinta" (National Youth Network for Reproductive Rights) [Ecuador]
- b GCAP [USA]
- b Gender at Work [India]
- b General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church on behalf of the Ecumenical Women 2000 Coalition [Tajikistan]
- b Global Call to Action Against Poverty [Kenya]
- b Global Movement for Children [Tanzania/USA]
- b Global Movement for Children [UK]
- b Global Movement for Children [USA]
- b Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict [Lebanon]
- b Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict [UK]
- b GLOBAL POLICY FORUM [Germany]
- b Global Rights Partners for Justice [USA]
- b Global Youth Action Network [Kuwait/Lebanon]
- b Global Youth Action Network [Ukraine]
- b Global Youth Action Network [Uruguay]
- b Greenpeace International [Netherlands]
- b GROOTS International [Cameroon]
- b Groots International [Kenya]
- b Grupo de Análise de Prevenção de Conflitos Internacionais (GAPCON)
  
- b HELPAGE INTERNATIONAL [UK]
- b Human Rights Watch [USA]
  
- b Indigenous World Association [USA]
- b Information Publishing Center "Green Dossier" [Ukraine]
- b Institute for Agricultural and Trade Policy [USA]
- b Instituto del Tercer Mundo [Uruguay]
- b Int. Ass. For Volunteer Effort (IAVE) [UK]
- b Int. Fed. For Human Rights (FIDH) [France/Belgium]
- b InterAction / American Council of Voluntary International Action [USA]
- b International Center for Research on Women [India /USA]
- b International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) [Argentina]
- b International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) [United Kingdom]
- b International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) [USA]
- b International Chamber of Commerce / WEF [Brazil]
- b International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) [Netherlands]
- b International Conflict Prevention Analysis Group [Brazil]
- b International Council for Adult Education [South Africa]
- b International Council for Adult Education [Uruguay]
- b International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE) [Nigeria]

- b 'International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development (INHURED International) [Nepal]
- b 'International Organization of Employers [USA]
- b 'International Planned Parenthood Federation [Mexico]
- b 'International Save the Children Alliance [USA]
- b 'International Service for Human Rights [USA]
- b 'International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies [USA]
- b 'International Volunteerism Organization for Women Education and Development [Italy]
- b 'International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) [Denmark]
- b 'International Youth & Student Movement [Nigeria]
- b 'JEA (Ecological Youth of Angola) [Angola]
  
- b 'Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (Jubilee-Zambia) [Zambia]
- b 'Junior Chamber International (JCI) [Philippines]
  
- b 'Kenya Women's Political Caucus [Kenya]
  
- b 'Lawyer's Committee On Nuclear Policy [USA]
- b 'Lawyers without Borders [USA]
- b 'Lutheran World Federation [USA]
  
- b 'MADRE [Argentina]
- b 'MADRE [Nicaragua]
- b 'Malawi Economic Justice Network [Malawi]
- b 'Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights [Greece]
- b 'Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic [Guatemala]
- b 'Medical Mission Sisters [USA]
- b 'Millennium+5 NGO Network [USA]
- b 'Minority Rights Group International [United Kingdom]
  
- b 'National Youth Council [Benin]
- b 'Network of Asia Pacific Youth Council [India]
- b 'Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women [Trinidad and Tobago]
- b 'New Zealand Council for International Development [New Zealand]
- b 'NGO Committee on Children's Rights, CONGO, [US]
- b 'NGO Forestry Sector Partnership [Indonesia]
- b 'NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security [Guyana/UK]
- b 'North-South Institute [Canada]
- b 'Novib Oxfam Netherlands/GCAP, Netherlands
  
- b 'Open Society Institute [Russia]
- b 'Oxfam International [USA]
  
- b 'Pacific Concerns Resource Center [Fiji]
- b 'Pan African Movement [Barbados]
- b 'Pax Christi [USA]
- b 'Pax Romana [Switzerland]
- b 'PDHRE [India]
- b 'PEACE BOAT [Japan]
- b 'Peace Worldwide [Pakistan]
- b 'People with Disabilities [Uganda]
- b 'People's Decade of Human Rights Education [USA]
- b 'Philippines Rural Reconstruction Movement [Philippines]
- b 'Population Action International [USA]
- b 'Professor Ateneo de Manila University [Philippines]
  
- b 'Red de Educación Popular Entre Mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe (REPEM) [Colombia]
- b 'Red de Educación Popular Entre Mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe (REPEM) [Mexico]
- b 'Refugees International (RI) [USA]
- b 'Respuesta Afro Panamena [Panama]
- b 'Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre [Canada]
  
- b 'Saferworld [USA]
- b 'Sancharika Samuha (Women Communicators Forum) [Nepal]
- b 'Sathi all for partnerships [India]
- b 'Save the Children-UK [UK]
- b 'Service for Peace and Justice in Latin America [Panama]
- b 'Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre [India]
- b 'Sierra Gorda Ecological Group [Mexico]
- b 'Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur [USA]
- b 'Social Development Foundation [India]
- b 'Social Research Center [Egypt]
- b 'Social Watch [India]
- b 'Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues [Liberia/US]
- b 'St. Lucia National Youth Council [St. Lucia]
- b 'Stakeholder Forum [United Kingdom]
- b 'Swedish-Somalia Institute [Somalia/Sweden]
  
- b 'Tavola della Pace – Peace Roundtable [Italy]
- b 'Tearfund [United Kingdom]
- b 'The Coalition against Trafficking in Women [India/Iran]
- b 'The Hunger Project [USA]
- b 'The Nature Conservancy [Philippines]
- b 'Third World Network [Malaysia]
- b 'True Christian Outreach of Zambia [Zambia]
  
- b 'UBUNTU, World Forum of Civil Society Networks [Spain]
- b 'Uganda Women's Tree Planting Movement [Uganda]
- b 'Ultimate Purpose [Netherlands/Suriname]
- b 'UNA-Australia [Australia]
- b 'UNA-Denmark [Denmark]
- b 'UNANIMA International together with the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women [Philippines]
- b 'UNA-Russia [Russia]
- b 'United Cities and Local Governments [France/Spain]
- b 'United Nations Association of China [China]
- b 'United Nations Associations of the Democratic Republic of Congo (UNA-DRC) [DRC]
- b 'Unnayan Onneshan – The Innovators centre for research and action on development [Bangladesh]
- b 'Urgent Action Fund for Africa [Kenya]
  
- b 'VIVAT International [USA]
  
- b 'Wana Mandhira Foundation (Environment) [Indonesia]
- b 'WEDO [Republic of Congo]
- b 'West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) [Ghana]
- b 'WFUNA [Australia]
- b 'Women's Environment and Dev. Organization [USA]
- b 'Women's International League for Peace and Freedom [Switzerland]
- b 'Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children [Canada]
- b 'Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) [Brazil]
- b 'Women's Legal Aid Centre [Tanzania]
- b 'World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), Switzerland [Private Sector]
- b 'World Confederation of Labor [Guyana/USA]
- b 'World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy [USA]
- b 'World Vision [USA]
- b 'World Vision/Child Sponsorship and Child Protection [Lao PDR]
- b 'World Wide Fund for Nature International [Ghana /Switzerland]
  
- b 'Yale University [Bulgaria]
- b 'YES-Ghana Country Network [Ghana]
- b 'YouAct (Europe Youth Network for Sexual & Reproductive Rights) [Netherlands]
- b 'Youth Coalition [India]
- b 'Youth Coalition [Mexico]
- b 'Youth with a Mission [UK]