

# NGO Declaration and Programme of Action

This document is the outcome of an international process before and during the NGO Forum of the WCAR held in Durban, South Africa on 28 August–1 September, 2001.

The WCAR NGO Declaration and Programme of Action is based on the understanding that it reflects the regional processes and that the voices of the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance must be heard.

## **Presentation of the NGO Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the NGO Forum by Myrna Cunningham, member of the International Steering Committee to the plenary session of the World Conference Against Racism (excerpts)**

"... We recognize the richness of the diversity of cultures, languages, religions and people in the world and the potential within this diversity to create a world free of racism, racial discrimination, genocide, slavery, xenophobia and related intolerance."

"... The NGO Declaration considers that the roots of many contemporary manifestations of racism and racial discrimination can be located in the legacy of the slave trade, slavery, colonialism and foreign occupation which led to forced movement of peoples, massive disposessions of territories and resources and the destruction of political, religious and social systems for which acknowledgement and reparations were never made, and which created historical injustices based on ideologies of superiority, dominance and purity, the consequence of which continues to this day, and we recognize the right of the victims to reparation."

"... We affirm that multiple forms of discrimination against women limit or negate women's potential for the full respect and exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedom in all spheres of life, the patriarchal social structures reinforce all forms of discrimination against women particularly those with disabilities, and that racism also creates other forms of patriarchal subordination of women."

"... We are concerned about the increasing number of refugees and asylum-seekers, stateless and internally displaced persons are women and children and are more vulnerable to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the receiving countries and regions."

"... The NGO Program of Action recommends legal measures that should be addressed by the UN and its member states and civil society."

"... We consider the restoration of dignity of those who have suffered from the consequences of racism important. For this we demand the political will of governments and other political, economic and social actors. This indicates the magnitude of the task and the difficulties that lie ahead of us in eradicating racism. It requires radical transformation

of society, reordering global institutions and that the UN initiates, engages and redresses current imbalances in global structures with a focus on addressing the cover issue of poverty, inequality and social exclusion.

"... We recognize that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the capacity to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies and that all human societies ascribed towards shared values of dignity, equality, justice, tolerance, solidarity, pluralism and multiculturalism.

"... Drawing inspiration from the slogan of the WCAR, 'United to Combat Racism: Equality, Justice and Dignity' and hopeful that the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance will affirm the commitment of the United Nations to developing practical, action oriented measures and strategies to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance."

"... Convinced that the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance will be an important occasion for healing, rec-

# CIVICUSWorld

## Calendar of Events

### 2-4 December, 2001

Global Disaster Relief & Reconstruction Summit—the first global forum to bring all disaster relief and reconstruction sectors together at one time, Venue: Washington DC, USA, Organiser: Equity International, E-mail: [events@equityinternational.tv](mailto:events@equityinternational.tv), Internet: [www.rec-dev.com](http://www.rec-dev.com)

### 9-10 January, 2002

Development Marketplace 2001 - Internet-based ideas to address development changes, Venue: Washington DC, USA, Organiser: Development Marketplace, the World Bank, Internet: [www.developmentmarketplace.org](http://www.developmentmarketplace.org)

### 22-28 January, 2002

Good or Bad Experiences Are All Experiences - international seminar on long term volunteering in Central and Eastern Europe, Venue: St. Petersburg, Russia, Organiser: Service Civil International (SCI), Contact: East-West Working Group Secretariat, SCI, Tel.: (48-61) 848-4336

### 6 February, 2002

What Price Independence? Annual Conference of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, UK, Venue: London, UK, Organiser: NCVO, Contact: Julia Childerhouse, E-mail: [julia.childerhouse@ncvo-vol.org.uk](mailto:julia.childerhouse@ncvo-vol.org.uk)

### 4-7 March, 2002

3rd International Conference on Sustainable Resource Mobilisation: Developing Local Roots – conference on building an active and accountable nonprofit sector, Venue: Agra, India, Organiser: The Resource Alliance, E-mail: [contact@resource-alliance.org.uk](mailto:contact@resource-alliance.org.uk), Internet: [www.resource-alliance.org/upload/Agra/index.htm](http://www.resource-alliance.org/upload/Agra/index.htm)

### 24 July - 5 August, 2002

CARAVAN 2002 - International Youth Camp Mongolia, Venue: Goby Desert, Mongolia, Organiser: Mongolian Youth Development Centre, E-mail: [exchange@mydc.org.mn](mailto:exchange@mydc.org.mn), Internet: [www.mydc.org.mn](http://www.mydc.org.mn)

**CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation** is an international alliance dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society throughout the world. Its members include nongovernmental and voluntary organizations, donor/corporate organizations, and interested individuals from more than 100 countries. Through its international Board of Directors, staff, regional conveners, and Task Forces, CIVICUS works with its members to increase and strengthen the lines of communication among its constituency using its newsletter and other publications, a growing database of information on civil society organizations around the world, representation at international, regional, and national meetings, and other forms of communication.

CIVICUS World is the newsletter of CIVICUS and is published six times a year. It is posted free to all members. Contributions of news, reports, publications, or other subjects of interest to our members are welcome. Please send all contributions, questions and/or comments to:

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