Global Solidarity: The Way to Peace and International Cooperation

28-30 August 2000
United Nations, New York

Organized by
the United Nations Department of Public Information
in cooperation with
the NGO/DPI Executive Committee
Global Solidarity: The Way to Peace and International Cooperation

MIDDAY NGO WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

Monday, 28 August 2000

The Midday NGO Workshops were organized independently by representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) associated with the Department of Public Information (DPI).

GLOBALIZATION OF MILITARISM

Sponsored by: Hague Appeal for Peace
Moderator: Margaret Melkonian, Hague Appeal for Peace 1999
Speakers: Felicity Hill, Director, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
Sia Mian, Center for Energy and Environmental Studies, Princeton University
Steven Staples, Chair, International Network on Disarmament and Globalization
Peter Weiss, President, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA)

Participants: Approximately 75

Panel members defined globalization in the context of peace, disarmament and human security. Felicity Hill described how economic globalization can fuel conflict and how it protects the military industrial, academic, bureaucratic, cultural and media complexes. Steven Staples described globalization as a threat to peace and disarmament, promoting military spending for corporate subsidies and other non-defence functions. Security forces and militaries will be required to suppress dissent arising from globalization and defend the economic interests of industrialized countries.

Peter Weiss defined globalization as global solidarity of the wrong kind, saying that a major problem is the sale of over $11 billion dollars in United States arms to developing countries, which has fuelled global militarism. Sia Mian offered a brief history of the globalization of militarism by the United States, beginning after the Second World War. He compared United States actions over the past 40 years to British colonialism. Speakers concluded that the consequences of globalization are increasing militarism, the growing gap between the rich and the poor, NATO expansion, the arms trade and deployment of military forces. Current policies undermine human security, support military over civilian economies and require oppressive force to impose civil and international order while protecting the interests and investments of transnational corporations, they said.

ADDRESSING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

Sponsored by: The Open Center of New York
Moderator: J. P. Harpignies, Program Consultant, The Open Center of New York
Speakers: Liz Martin, Natural Resources Defense Council
Alex Perera, Natural Resources Defense Council
Carol Rosen, Editor-in-Chief, World Resources Report, World Resources International

Participants: Approximately 30

Carol Rosen spoke about the Millennium Ecosystem Summit and its goal to implement up-to-date policy-making procedures. She urged the audience to take a bigger view, to be better informed, to develop values and to encourage dialogue with the local community in order to achieve environmental goals. In the Millennium Ecosystem Summit, “NGOs will monitor and will be auditors,” she said. Alex Perera spoke about global warming, sea-level rise, floods, infectious diseases and ecosystems. Corporations that have energy-efficient and environmentally friendly buildings should receive an investment tax credit so that “they can operate better to protect the environment”. More efficient equipment reduces energy consumption and pollution. “We must enforce new policies to promote energy efficiency, reduce emissions and create jobs in new industries,” he said. Liz Martin urged people to think about global warming globally but to act locally.
“Start a public campaign to reach a larger audience, influence a State, make it a priority for Governments and prove that global warming is affecting us,” she said.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATION

**Economy of Communun**

**Sponsored by:** The New Humanity  
**Moderator:** Joseph Klock, United States  
**Speakers:** Leo Andringa, New Humanity, the Netherlands  
Usrsula Lulley, Delegate, Focolare  
Movement, New York  
Senator Enzo Tarotti, Italy  
**Participants:** Approximately 50

The panel presented a picture of the new economic initiative “Economy of Communun”, begun in 1991 in Brazil by Chiara Lubichum, founder of New Humanity Focolare, which has now spread around the world. Usrsula Lulley explained the “Economy of Sharing Project”, where groups set aside part of their profits to share with those who are without, and help promote businesses with consumers, suppliers, and competitors with local and international communities. Some 700 companies worldwide participate in this project. Leo Andringa discussed the Tobin tax proposal. While taxing financial transfers sounds attractive at first, there are a number of serious challenges to this approach, including how to make the programme international and how to prevent tax evasion by financial institutions. Senator Tarotti discussed the need for debt relief for poor countries. He said that debt is currently choking Africa and Latin America and they are spending little on education, health care and economic development. Italy has passed a law for partial forgiveness of debt up to $6 billion and wants to help poor countries develop. Italy is also redefining its aid and development programs. Govern-ments, UN agencies, religious institutions, NGOs and private citizens must be involved in new collaborations to create a more stable world economy.

**Solidarity with Africa:**  
**A Call for More Action**

**Sponsored by:** The International Club for Peace Research  
**Moderator:** Pierre Zemele, Research Fellow, HIV/AIDS Program, University of Yaoundé, Cameroon  
**Speakers:** Adeyinka Akinshun-Shuitt, African Services Committee Inc., Bellevue Hospital Center, New York  
Ruth Bamela Engo-Tjega, African Action on AIDS  
Ambassador Monthe Tomo, Committee for Program and Coordination, Economic and Social Council, United Nations  
**Participants:** Approximately 50

Ambassador Tomo suggested that “Africa should be a priority area, second only to women and drugs”. Pierre Zemele discussed the biological factors of AIDS. He explained that HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) attacks T-lymphocytes (or cells), which control the immune system. Since HIV is so powerful, an infected T-cell is unable to fight off even a common cold. Adeyinka Akinshun-Shuitt spoke of the prominence of AIDS in Africa. She explained that 85 per cent of AIDS-infected people live in Africa, and in sub-Saharan Africa children as young as five are becoming infected through heterosexual intercourse. Ruth Bamela Engo-Tjega discussed her NGO’s outreach programme for AIDS orphans. Its focus is to keep children off the street by matching the orphans with sages who are compassionate mentors. Pierre Zemele recalled that only 2 per cent of pregnant women in Africa could afford health care. The audience raised questions on the continuing practice of enslaving women and children in Mauritania, and on racial persecution of some NGOs in African countries.

**Women, Peace and the Security Council**

**Sponsored by:** The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom  
**Moderator:** Isla Dyaan, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom  
**Speakers:** Charlotte Bunch, Executive Director of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership  
Rhonda Copelon, International Women’s Human Rights Law Clinic  
Betty Reardon, International Institute for Peace Education  
**Participants:** Approximately 55

According to Isla Dyaan, the Security Council recognizes that women must be involved in the decision-making process. Charlotte Bunch stressed that women do not need to provide evidence as to why they should be present at the Security Council because it is a question of democracy. She added that they should be there in numbers that are representative of their population. Rhonda Copelon focused on the role of the International Criminal Court in acknowledging women before, during and after war. Betty Reardon addressed the link between the war system and gender equality. She stated that “the full equality of women cannot be realized in the war system, and the war system cannot be overcome without the full equality of women”. She also stated that there will not be peace without peace education, which is not possible unless there are core changes in general education. Rhonda Copelon, responding to what women in the United States can do for women in Afghanistan, said that women in positions of power are obligated to voice for the powerless, and teach them how to voice for themselves.
HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION: ROLES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY; BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH GLOBAL PEACE

Sponsored by: The International Association of Sufism
Moderator: Arife Ellen Hammerle, Women of Sufism
Speakers: Nahid Angha, Co-Director and Co-Founder of the International Association of Sufism
Jonathan Granoff (Ahamed Muhaiyaddeen), Secretary, Society for Interreligious Intercultural Dialogue
Sonja Gilbert, President, Baswa Muhiayatdeen Fellowship, humanitarian service worker
Nina Meyerhof, Children of the Earth
Participants: Approximately 30

Nahid Angha noted that the label of “human rights” is often used to disguise core financial issues and that peace efforts fail when the true causes of a conflict are not understood.

The goal is a culture of peace in which the human mind is free of intolerance and hate, and children learn shared is not power halved, it is power doubled. Bill Pace said the panel suggested vigilant monitoring and proposing practical resolutions to conflicts.

Tuesday, 29 August 2000

CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE NEW DEMOCRATIC DIPLOMACY

Sponsored by: Hague Appeal for Peace
Moderator: Cora Weiss, President of Hague Appeal for Peace
Speakers: Anwarul Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations
Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
William Pace, Convener, NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court (ICC)
Participants: Approximately 195

Cora Weiss stated that there must be a working partnership between government, the United Nations and civil society where both women and men are present at the discussion. Ambassador Chowdhury said that international organizations play a key role in the global agenda, as they do people. All actors must be present in all efforts. There should be established seats for NGOs at ECOSOC and other conferences. The goal is a culture of peace in which the human mind is free of intolerance and hate, and children learn virtues and values. Noeleen Heyzer said UNIFEM is dedicated to building a new kind of leadership that is based on power with and within, instead of power over, because power is shared.

She found that her generation's vision was to achieve world peace and to protect the earth. She said that respect is the solution and that children want to help, but need to be taught how. Marilyn Mosley stated that, rather than centre on strict content, educators should focus on developing multifaceted, independent thinkers. Tana Herbert said she was raised with 1,800 exotic animals and learned from them how to be human. Successful relationships with all living creatures incorporate patience, love, understanding and mutual respect. The Wildlife Awareness Foundation has started to educate people about animals and promote understanding. Noel Brown said he is committed to finding more opportunities to involve and listen to children. He suggested that youth versions of important global documents be produced. Chief Oren R. Lyons said Iroquois leaders evaluate what impact their decisions will have on future generations. He warned that while the ice is melting in the north, the fires are raging in the west. This is nature's power, bringing balance. If humans don't take restorative action soon, the earth will restore balance on its own terms.

WOMEN AND COMMUNICATION

Sponsored by: World Information Transfer
Speakers: Christine K. Durbak, Chair and CEO, World Information Transfer
Michael Loox, Director, Humanity Libraries Project
Claudia Strauss, Director, World Information Transfer
Participants: Approximately 70

Claudia Strauss presented an overview of the importance of women in teaching communication within the family. However, in many cultures women are not treated equally within the family. These inequalities between men and women need to be addressed. Michael Loox noted that only 10 per cent of people in developing countries who want to attend university can do so. He suggested that NGOs provide information in developing countries by creating digital libraries on the Internet and on CD-ROMs in various languages. These libraries can provide information on health, education, violence, legal issues and other topics. Most people do not have access to computers, so there is a need for cyber-cafes and other public access locations. Christine Durbak noted that more than half of the 300 million Internet users are women. Internet use is expanding rapidly in developing countries. She suggested that communication via the Internet, providing a place for women to achieve equality, the Internet providing a place for women to meet, chat and gain support. Women can learn to speak their mind and learn to take more risks to gain their rightful equal-
micro-finance in post-disaster and post-conflict

Sponsored by: The Trickle Up Program
Moderator: Laura Lopez, Deputy Director, Trickle Up Program
Speaker(s): David Larson, Assistant Director, Micro-Enterprise Development, World Relief
Marinke van Riet, Program Officer for Africa, Trickle Up Program
Participants: Approximately 50

David Larson said that aid for micro-enterprise development will make a significant and lasting change as opposed to handouts. As a result, more people will actually enjoy an improvement in their living conditions. Geetha Nagaratn focused on the financial impact of disasters by micro-finance institutions (MFIs). As a result of a decline in inflows from clients and increased demand for outflows to MFIs, we will suffer a temporary liquidity crisis, she said, recommending the establishment of reserve funds in advance of future disasters. This should enable the MFIs to provide relief loans quickly following a disaster. Explaining the Trickle Up approach, Marinke van Riet said that unlike microcredit providers, Trickle Up does not give loans; but awards conditional grants, which are used by clients to start small businesses. Trickle Up provides capital and includes a business-training component that can contribute to enterprise sustainability. Trickle Up targets the poorest people and is partner to many local NGOs.

Global Meeting of Generations
Summary not available

Ending violence against women: The way to global peace and cooperation

Moderator: Sally Fisher, Director, V-Day Worldwide Initiative; Founder, Northern Lights Alternatives
Speaker(s): Eve Ensler, playwright, author of The Vagina Monologues and Necessary Targets
Donna Ferrato, photographer
Hazelwood Goodman, writer
Ruchira Gupta, film-maker, The Selling of Innocence
Participants: Approximately 100

In her opening remarks, Sally Fisher said, “Solidarity is not possible unless violence against women ends.” Eve Ensler compared feminism in two different places—Beverly Hills and Afghanistan. She contrasted scenes she had recently seen in Afghanistan, where women are oppressed and tortured by totalitarian rule, with the huge market for plastic surgery in Beverly Hills. Ruchira Gupta, originally from South Asia, spoke about young Nepalese girls, who, because of their gender, are organized into groups of prostitutes, sex to be bought, and then beaten and raped repeatedly. Hazelwood Goodman read a piece from The Vagina Monologues depicting the sexual assault of a Bosnian woman during the war by opposing soldiers. During the discussion the panelists became engaged with a young man in the audience who said he would like to educate young men to prevent future atrocities against women.

Preventing Global Violence

Moderator: Barry Weisberg, Director, Violence Prevention Peace Promotion Strategy, Chicago
Speaker(s): Mayra Buvinic, Chief, Social Development Division, and Special Adviser on Violence, Inter-American Development Bank
Rosanna Carrillo, Human Rights Adviser, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), New York
Alec Fye, Special Senior Adviser for the protection of children, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), New York
Rashni Mayur, Director, International Institute for Sustainable Future, Bombay, India
Participants: Approximately 70

Speakers surveyed conditions of global violence, family violence and genocide, offering proposals for prevention by Governments, NGOs and the United Nations. Barry Weisberg described ways to understand global violence and prevent it. He discussed the need to deal with values, attitudes, behaviours and infrastructures that perpetuate violence as well as those that promote peace. Alec Fye focused on violence against children during war and in peace-time. He said that child abuse is increasing and occurs in armed conflicts, at institutions, in the home and on the street. He noted that a special session of the General Assembly on children’s issues is slated for September 2001. Rosanna Carrillo stated that people’s understanding of violence is inadequate. She said better strategies are needed, resources are limited and the value of women in communities needs to be addressed. Rashmi Mayur gave a regional view of violence, pointing out that India had produced 15 nuclear bombs while children starved. Mayra Buvinic discussed the magnitude of violence in Latin America, the course it takes and its costs and solutions. She said that her bank had given peaceful coexistence loans to countries to combat street and domestic violence.

International cooperation, children and mass media

Sponsored by: Comunicación Cultural
Moderator: Jonathan Marks
Speaker(s): Eugenia Elizalde Iglesias, International Affairs Responsible, Shamina Gonzalez Kazan, Mam Represenative, Comunicación Cultural
Participants: Approximately 20
Shamina Gonzalez Kazan referred to various organizations, including the United Nations and its associated NGOs, which are being urged to reach out to youth and to allow them to take part in their activities. She said that young people comprise a substantial percentage of the world’s population that is not represented in the media and is virtually ignored. Youth appear in the media only as celebrities lecturing young people on what they should be doing or in gruesome school shootings, setting bad examples. Eugenia Elizalde Iglesias said civil society must have a global strategy and start paying attention to the mass media, which, with proper motivation, can be a determining factor in uniting the world and promoting the defense and protection of children. Speakers distributed written questions to the audience including: Are all youth targeted in the same way? Is there a youth culture? Do young people from different backgrounds react in different ways to the media? And how can youth become involved, use the tools at hand, have an impact on the media and have a voice?

United Nations Affiliation
Summary not available

Recognizing the indigenous tradition and perspective as a way to global peace and cooperation

Sponsored by: The Temple of Understanding and Tribal Link Foundation
Moderator: Barbara Pile
Speakers: Samee Beeler, Keetowah Society
Tanya Gonnella Frichner, President and Founder of the American Indian Law Alliance, Onondaga Nation
Ray Evans Harrell, Medicine Priest, Keetowah Society
Orvil Looking Horse, Chief, 19th Generation Keeper of the White Buffalo Calf Pipe
Sammy Tomsa, National Council of Churches Racial Justice Office, Lakota woman
Participants: Approximately 63

Sam Beeler recalled that Native Americans were forbidden to congregate and worship until 1978, when the American Indian Religious Freedom Act was passed. He said it is necessary to pray for those who do not understand you. Tanya Gonnella Frichner acknowledged that participatory democracy begins in tribes and recognizes that peace among many nations is possible, adding that it is essential that indigenous peoples be present at the World Conference against Racism in South Africa in 2001, and that the United Nations must approve a declaration on indigenous peoples. Ray Evans Harrell talked about the seven sacred ceremonies with detailed reference to the adornment ceremony in which two people pledge to understand each other. Chief Orvil Looking Horse opened the discussion with a prayer in his native tongue and English. He said the work of the Lakota Sioux Nation is dedicated to world peace, and through their ceremonies will change will come. Sammy Tomsa expressed contempt for the boarding school she was forced to attend and the reservation on which she was forced to live. However, she acknowledged that the isolation of these places helped preserve her language and spiritual rituals. Mrs. Tomsa wondered why groups such as environmentalists are more concerned with endangered species than with endangered peoples and cultures.

Productive Aging

Sponsored by: Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS)
Moderator: Andres Castellanos, Co-Chairman, AFICS (NY) Committee on NGO Relations and Information, and member of the United Nations Panel of Counsel
Speaker(s): Romen Basu, Author
Virginia Hazzard, AFICS Richard Nottidge, FA FICS
Helen Geffen Rohit, Chair, AFICS (NY) Committee on Aging, Consultant
Commentator: Stafford Mousky, International Planned Parenthood Federation
Participants: Approximately 20
Speakers addressed such issues as self-esteem, productive aging, social contribution and advocacy in support of the goals and programmes of the United Nations system. Virginia Hazzard spoke about the increasing number of people globally who are over the age of 60. She said that because
of advances in technology and nutrition, people are enjoying a longer life. Helen Geffen Roht discussed the difficulties that older people have keeping up with technology and the importance of the work of the Association of Former International Civil Servants. Romen Basu discussed his years of service with the United Nations, saying that it is critical to stay involved with civil society. Stafford Mousky gave statistics on the number of people who will be retiring over the next 25 years and the need to change the way ageing is viewed. Productive ageing involves looking differently at people who are older and opening up to new ways of perceiving, valuing and ordering reality. Richard Nottidge spoke about the work of the AFICS and its affiliates, pointing out that former civil servants are a virtually untapped resource for NGOs.

**ALTERNATIVES TO MILITARY INTERVENTION:**

**NEW PATHS TO PEACE**

**Sponsored by:** Peace Action International

**Moderator:** Tracy Moavero, Peace Action International

**Speakers:** Lakhdar Brahimi, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Chair, Panel on United Nations Peace Operations

Jose da Silva Campbello, Political Affairs Officer, Africa Division, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations

David Jackman, Quaker United Nations Office

Dorrie Weiss, Economists Allied for Arms Reduction (ECAAR)

**Participants:** Approximately 80

Lakhdar Brahimi referred to the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, "The Brahimi Report", which included many recommendations for improvements. He stressed that the United Nations should make a stronger effort to tap all available information resources in order to learn as much as possible about a conflict. The United Nations should increase the number of peace operations staff at Headquarters, thereby improving the management of these operations. Jose da Silva Campello said that the use of force by the United Nations is the measure of last resort when war prevention and peaceful dispute settlement have failed. He further mentioned “An Agenda for Peace”, published in 1992, which added a further concept to the dimensions of preventive diplomacy and peacekeeping. He explained the many facets of peace-building, stressing the challenges of reintegrating former soldiers into a peaceful society after prolonged conflicts. David Jackman spoke on non-violent measures, referring to Mel Duncan and David Hartsgough’s proposal for an international non-violent peace force for the new millennium. The goal would be to create a standing, trained, non-violent peace force under global auspices. Dorrie Weiss, from ECAAR, mentioned the challenges of bringing peace to war-torn Angola after a 40-year period. “You have to replace the soldier’s pride with something else,” she said.

**ECOVILLAGES: A MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING AND GLOBAL SOLIDARITY**

**Sponsored by:** The Findhorn Foundation Eco-Village Project

**Moderator:** John L. Talbott, Project Director, Eco-Village Project, Findhorn Foundation

**Speakers:** John L. Clausen, Findhorn Foundation

Roger Doudna, International Program Officer and Coordinator, Findhorn Foundation Fellowship

May East, Trustee, Findhorn Foundation, and Education Coordinator, Eco-Village Project

Frances Edwards, Findhorn Foundation

J. Michael Shaw, Trustee, Findhorn Foundation

**Participants:** Approximately 50

The panel discussed the beginnings of the Findhorn Foundation in 1962 in Scotland and its common goals based on ecological, social, spiritual and sustainable values. May East defined an eco-village as a small community of 50 to 200 people united by common goals. One of its main principles is to create sustainable living that also incorporates the best of technology. Photos of the Findhorn eco-village showed the transformation to current settlements. John Talbott emphasized that economic development is crucial to developing the infrastructure that the community earns its own livelihood. By using the natural elements of the earth, the community creates an eco-village, applying ecological structures for construction and renewable energy systems for heating water and space. The community produces locally grown organic crops and replace felled trees. Roger Doudna said that personal inspirations with nature are a major guiding principle. The community also shares in social and family support, forming a partnership to enhance the quality of life. The panel agreed that the planet’s life support systems need to change the way ageing is viewed. Productive ageing involves looking differently at people who are older and opening up to new ways of perceiving, valuing and ordering reality. Richard Nottidge spoke about the work of the AFICS and its affiliates, pointing out that former civil servants are a virtually untapped resource for NGOs.

**THE PEOPLE’S ASSEMBLY IN ACTION: LINKING THE LOCAL TO THE GLOBAL IN THE NEW DEMOCRATIC DIPLOMACY**

**Sponsored by:** MPAN, the Millennium People’s Assembly Network

**Moderator:** Rob Wheeler, MPAN Chair, Pennsylvania

**Speakers:** Rashmi Mayur, Director, International Interfaith Coalition for Sustainable Future

Susan Zipp, Co-Chair, Global People’s Assembly, and Chair of the Local to Global People’s Assembly Committee

**Participants:** Approximately 25

The panel presented a video entitled “The First Global Millennium People’s Assembly”, which met in Samoa in April 2000 for its inaugural meeting, the theme being “Make Peace Stop War”. Susan Zipp spoke about the need for people to take collective action, saying that young people should be in mentor programmes to help them get more involved. This can be achieved through social clubs, meaningful dialogue and the Internet. Rashmi Mayur said that many people are working for peace and have similar goals. In discussing the planet’s health, she cited such examples as the big meltdown and the greenhouse gases. “There is no one global authority,” she said. “People should dream about the earth, the children and their future. People can’t depend on Governments any longer; we must do it ourselves.” Some participants disagreed with him, saying that there should not be a tax of “we versus them”. A youth representative noted that she was the only young person at the meeting.

**NETWORKING FOR THE GLOBALIZATION OF PEACE**

**Sponsored by:** Pathways to Peace

**Moderator:** Monica Winter, Pathways to Peace

**Speakers:** Elder William Commanda, Keeper of the three sacred Algonquin Wampum Belts

Eileen Gannon, Global Education Associates

Erik Larson, Brahma Kumaris

Pierre Marchand, Appeal of the Nobel Peace Laureates

Muhammad Mowla, Bangladesh Mission

Betty Williams, 1976 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

**Participants:** Approximately 65

The speakers discussed different networks to promote the globalization of peace. Elder William Commanda of the Anishinabe Nation said a prayer of peace in his native tongue and spoke about the three sacred belts and their prophecy of the “seven fires”. Betty Williams spoke of her work in Ireland with children and currently with the World’s Centres for Compassion for Children. She said, “We need to change our living rooms and our minds, starting at home and within to find peace.” She helped set up a Universal Declaration of the Rights of the World’s Children. Muhammad Mowla said that NGOs need to continue to bring their voice and information to the United Nations, to keep the culture of peace alive. Pierre Marchand said that many Nobel Peace Laureates had joined the Appeal of the Nobel Peace Laureates and had also signed an appeal called “For the Children”, to teach non-violence in schools around the world. Eileen Gannon discussed networking for peace education in Iraq, and Erik Larson talked about the Manifesto 2000 for the culture of peace.

**UNITED NATIONS AND YOUTH**

**Moderator:** David Brook, Chair, Committee on Youth

**Speakers:** Alfred Balarin, student advocate, University of Albany

Joan Besiel, United Nations Youth Outreach

Maxwell Haywood, Youth Unit of the United Nations Secretariat

Nickolai Parker, Interfaith Center of New York

Colleen Werthmann, CyberSchoolBus

**Participants:** Approximately 50

David Brook paid homage to intergenerational committee members and pleaded for the United Nations to increase its support to children. He expressed the need to prevent children from joining belligerent hate groups such as the neo-Nazis, against whom the German Government had already been forced to take action. Maxwell Haywood stated that youth concerns are not properly addressed and that it is imperative for youth organizations to be more involved at the national level. Alfred Balarin discussed how his student group reinforced the positive aspects of the United Nations, in the face of adversity. Nickolai Parker talked of the importance of recruiting young people for NGOs by organizing essay contests, youth-guided projects and internship programmes, so that emerging visionaries can work together. Colleen Werthmann gave an extensive outline of the Cyber-SchoolBus, which offers teacher-training kits from primary through secondary school in official languages of the United Nations.
HumBl Rights: The Foundation for Global Solidarity
Sponsored by: The Human Rights Caucus
Moderator: Anne Zanes, Co-Chairperson of Human Rights Caucus; Peace Links
Speakers: Carol Kalafatic, International Indian Treaty Council Association
Anie Kalayjian, World Federation for Mental Health
Dune Lankard, Founder of Eyak Preservation Council
Roger Normand, Director, Center for Economic and Social Rights
Participants: Approximately 40
Panellists discussed human rights from the perspective of traditions in indigenous societies and the need for them to be considered as part of economic, social and environmental rights and to teach human rights from an early age. Carol Kalafatic noted that in indigenous societies fulfilling traditional responsibilities organically guarantees certain “rights”.

Dune Lankard noted that the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill changed the lives of people and animals of Prince William Sound forever. The community succeeded in getting Exxon to pay $1 billion for restoration, setting an important precedent. The indigenous peoples of Alaska continue to take action to preserve their delicate ecosystem. Roger Normand said that human rights must be viewed holistically, including economic and social rights. Globalization can mean that corporations have more rights than people. He warned NGOs to be careful when accepting corporate funds and engage only in activities and associations that promote their organizations’ interests. Anie Kalayjian said that trauma is suffered throughout the lives of disaster survivors and is transferred to future generations, as experienced by Ottoman Turkish genocide survivors. She suggested working to prevent atrocities by discussing human rights with children.

Strengthening the United Nations General Assembly
Summary not available