

56th Annual
DPI/NGO Conference

**Human Security and Dignity:
Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations**

FINAL REPORT

United Nations, New York
8-10 September 2003

Organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information in
partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee



A record number of representatives from more than 600 NGOs attended the Opening Session in the General Assembly Hall.

Overview of the 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

This year's DPI/NGO Conference attracted a record 2,000 representatives from more than 600 United Nations-affiliated NGOs, and included the participation of scores of Permanent Mission and United Nations officials. The Conference, organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI) in full partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, was dedicated to United Nations staff members killed or injured on 19 August in Iraq. It focused on the challenges of providing real human security to people around the world through partnerships among the United Nations, civil society and Governments.

The Conference theme was first developed at a town hall meeting of associated NGO representatives at United Nations Headquarters in November 2002. The following month, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee appointed Ms. Fannie Munlin, United Nations Representative of the National Association of Negro Women, as Chair of the Conference. She joined the Chief of DPI's NGO Section as Co-Chair of the Planning Committee, which began meeting weekly in January 2003. The 33-member Planning Committee (See complete list on page 40) held 40 meetings, including a "lessons learned" session after the Conference and made its final decisions in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.

Conference organizers invited representatives of the 1,400 NGOs associated with DPI and those with consultative status through the United Nations Economic and Social Council to participate in the three-day event. The Conference, the premier NGO gathering at the United Nations each year, featured 190 speakers at seven plenary sessions and 31 Midday NGO Workshops. The Conference was, for the first time, web cast live through the United Nations homepage, <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection>, and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee web site, <http://www.ngodpiexecom.org>, enabling people worldwide to follow and participate in the proceedings.

Representatives from developing countries (800 total) accounted for 40 per cent of Conference attendees, double the 2002 percentage. More than 3,500 NGOs from 100 countries pre-registered. Thanks to special outreach efforts of associated NGOs, a record number of young persons (age 16 to 25) participated. Moreover, videoconferencing of the opening session was made available to NGOs and United Nations staff at offices in Geneva, Mexico City, Vienna, and Washington, D.C.

The World Council of Peoples for the United Nations, an associated NGO, contributed funds to cover Conference expenses. More than 87 NGOs and individuals also made donations. (see page 43 for full list).

The Conference underscored the Commission on Human Security's recent *Report on Human Security* and the *Secretary-General's 2003 Report on the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration* as well as many United Nations and NGO best practices in rights-based human security. The Conference featured presentations by more than 20 high-level officials from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Global Compact Office, Non-Governmental Liaison Office, Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, as well as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the World Bank.

It also afforded partners the opportunity to capitalize on the presence of NGOs from around the world. Members of the Secretary-General's Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations held various consultations with NGO representatives, for example; and the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) timed the release of its annual report on civil society and the Millennium Development Goals as well as its annual board meeting to coincide with the Conference.

The Conference in Numbers:

- A record 2,000 representatives from more than 600 United Nations-affiliated NGOs in 86 countries attended the Conference, in addition to many Permanent Mission and United Nations staff.
- Forty per cent (800 people) of NGO representatives were from the developing world, representing organizations in 61 countries. This is double the proportion from previous Conferences.
- More than 3,500 NGOs from 100 countries pre-registered for the Conference.
- A record number of young persons (age 16 to 25) participated thanks to special outreach efforts of associated NGOs.
- The main Conference Reception on Monday evening was attended by the Secretary-General and more than 1,100 guests, the largest attendance ever.
- Thirty-one Midday NGO Workshops featured an additional 155 speakers.
- More than 50 per cent of speakers of the seven plenary sessions were women and more than 50 per cent were from developing countries.
- The participation of 14 speakers from developing countries was made possible by funds raised by the NGO/DPI Executive Committee.
- For the first time, all seven plenary sessions were broadcast live on UNTV and webcast (and are archived) on the Internet.

Speakers

At the opening session in the General Assembly Hall, Conference Chair Fannie Munlin dedicated the 56th Conference to United Nations staff who had come under attack in Iraq and in other troubled parts of the world.

Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, convened the opening session. The Conference was then addressed by such notables as Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former President of Brazil and chair of the Secretary-General's Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations; Danny Glover, actor and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Goodwill Ambassador; Jeffrey Sachs, renowned economist on development issues and a Special Advisor to the Secretary-General; Sadako Ogata, former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Co-chair of the Commission on Human Security; and the President of the 57th session of the General Assembly, HE Ambassador Jan Kavan. Due to scheduling conflicts, Secretary-General Kofi Annan was represented at the opening session by the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Louise Fréchette. Moderators included Giandomenico Picco, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations; Cream Wright, Chief of the Education Section of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Danny Glover; Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, a Senior Advisor at the World Bank; and Barbara Crossette, a columnist with *UN Wire*. (See complete précis of the presentations of all speakers beginning on page 15).

Parallel Meetings

As it is not feasible to hold the Annual Conference in other regions of the world, the organizers encouraged NGOs and United Nations Information Centres everywhere to organize parallel events. These usually take the form of day-long seminars that draw on the Conference themes. This year, such events were organized by United Nations Information Centres in Geneva, Islamabad, Mexico City and Yaounde.



A parallel meeting was organized by UNIC Yaounde on 1 August 2003

Midday NGO Workshops

The Midday NGO Workshops, organized independently by NGO representatives of the Planning Committee, remained one of the most popular features of the Conference (see detailed précis of Workshops attached – on yellow paper in hard copy). A total of 155 speakers had the opportunity to discuss Conference themes during these 31 hour-and-a-half meetings.

Conference Receptions

Mrs. Nane Annan hosted a reception and luncheon for Conference speakers at the Secretary-General's residence on the opening day.

As every year, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee organized a reception on the opening evening of the Conference for Conference participants, United Nations and Mission officials and other guests. This year the reception attracted 1,100 persons, including Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

On the second evening, the Youth Committee hosted an event in the Dag Hammarskjöld Park across from United Nations Headquarters. This networking event featured cultural presentations for young NGO delegates in attendance.

For the first time, a farewell reception was held on the last evening of the Conference. The reception in the United Nations Visitors' Plaza was co-sponsored by New York Wine and Grape Foundation and American Express, and attended by more than 800 guests, including New York City Government officials.

Media Coverage

This year's Conference received more media coverage than any previous DPI/NGO Conference (see annex 1 for specific coverage in all media). This was due to more sophisticated and intensive outreach by the Media Subcommittee and, possibly, heightened interest in the work of the Organization during this difficult time in United Nations history. Organizers carefully matched high-profile participants with United Nations-accredited and outside media, particularly the New York metropolitan area ethnic press, as well as the *United Nations News Service*, *UNTV*, *UN Radio* and in-house publications in several languages. As always, there was concerted outreach to NGO-related newspapers, journals, newsletters, websites and other media. In addition, the Media Subcommittee organized three press conferences featuring six speakers.

As of November 2003, more than 45 articles were published about the Conference. In addition, there were 19 radio programmes and five television presentations. *World Chronicle*, the in-house meet-the-press TV programme, interviewed Kingsley Moghalu, Manager of Resource Mobilization and Global Partnerships of the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. Articles will be published in upcoming editions of the *UN Chronicle*, *Africa Recovery* and *Secretariat News*. Danny Glover also received television and radio coverage.

There was significant and diverse media exposure in radio, print and news wire services from all over the world. Spanish, Brazilian and Ukrainian services, among others, broadcast interviews with speakers. Articles distributed by *UN Wire*, *Swiss Press Agency*, the *Pakistan Newswire*, the *Press Trust of India*, *All Africa* and *Interpress Service* also played an important role in spreading the news throughout Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East.

The Conference was featured by many international broadcasting companies such as Brazil's *Globo TV*, the *Norwegian Broadcasting Corp.* and United States' *Black Entertainment Television*. In terms of print media, newspapers such as the Ukrainian weekly *Meest* and Ghana's *Accra Mail* provided coverage.

Interactive Media

In an effort to make the proceedings of the Conference available to NGO representatives unable to attend as well as to a broader public, all seven plenary sessions were webcast through the United Nations homepage, <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection>, and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee web site, <http://www.ngodpiexecom.org>, the first time. The interactive web site enabled NGOs and the general public to access audio and video web casts live through their personal computers (see Annex 2).

A dynamic feature of the web cast was an open discussion forum for each plenary session in which NGOs connected globally and shared comments on issues relating to human security and dignity. Another featured allowed remote participants to ask the moderator questions during the live presentations. The website received more than 1,000 visitors from over 25 countries, among them Australia, Costa Rica, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Peru and South Africa.

The Interactive Media Subcommittee collaborated closely with the Art Centre College of Design in Pasadena, California, whose faculty and graduate students designed and developed the interactive website. The Art College also designed the Conference programme cover and related promotional materials. UNTV and DPI's Internet Technology Section teamed with the United Nations Representative of the Lions' Club to launch the web cast. Graduate students at DePaul University in Chicago monitored the live sessions.

Feedback: Conference Surveys

As in past years, the Conference surveyed participants on the value of the Conference and the services of the NGO Section and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee. The Conference Survey, prepared by DPI's Evaluation and Communications Research Unit and distributed to all participants, featured 10 questions (for complete Conference Survey results see Annex 3. The survey response rate for the DPI/NGO Conference was 20 per cent, similar to last year. Some of the results include:

- A greater percentage of respondents classified this year's plenary sessions as "very useful" compared to last year. Furthermore, the majority of respondents said that two sessions – *Sustainable Development* and *A Conversation with Eminent Persons on Global Trends and Strategies* - were "very useful." No event received that level of acclaim during last year's Conference.
- Compared to last year's feedback, there were improvements in online usage, networking opportunities, and organizational efforts.
- Conference web site consultation prior to the Conference increased by more than 10 per cent from last year, and more NGOs said they planned to disseminate Conference-related information via a listserv.
- The number of participants who knew about the Executive Committee web site rose 5 per cent from last year, as did those who found it "very useful." This is a notable achievement given the increase in representatives from developing countries.
- On the whole, five per cent more of this year's respondents rated networking opportunities as "very useful" compared to last year's, and over 10 per cent more respondents ranked networking as "very useful" and "useful."
- A noteworthy increase was observed in the awareness of the NGO Executive Committee. Ten percent more respondents indicated familiarity with the Committee's work throughout the year and almost 20 per cent more respondents indicated that the advent of pre-Conference information (Reception/Midday Workshops) was "very useful."
- Almost 20 per cent more respondents this year lauded the organization of both the Reception and the Midday Workshops.

In addition, at the request of DPI's Outreach Division, Conference participants involved in educational activities were asked to complete a survey on their work in this area. More than 150 did.

Lessons Learned

Each year the Planning Committee has a candid "lessons learned" meeting shortly after the Conference to review what went right and what went wrong. Organizers also rely heavily on the annual Conference Survey. These exercises contribute to the changes made for subsequent Conferences. The following are among the highlights:

The registration process, particularly on the opening morning when more than 1,200 participants must be seated in the General Assembly Hall by 10:00 a.m., was greatly improved from previous years. Friday and Sunday pre-

registration enabled 1,000 participants to register in advance, significantly reducing congestion on Monday morning. An increase in trained staff and registration processing equipment made this possible.

The Midday NGO Workshops continue to be one of the most popular events. This year there were 31 workshops on themes related to the Conference. More than 100 workshop proposals were presented, a large amount given the limited venue. Very specific guidelines to oversee organization of the Workshops will be used in the future to allow for a broad spectrum of themes and NGOs from outside the United States.

Although many people from abroad were able to attend, it was clear by the number of persons registered that many people could not make it to New York. NGO representatives, particularly those in developing countries, indicated that they needed several months advance notice to obtain visas from the host country. The Committee decided to clarify procedures with the host country so that representatives could make arrangements more easily.

Many participants continue to request more opportunities during the Conference to get acquainted and share information. This year, a networking breakfast at the United Nations staff cafeteria on the third day of the Conference was particularly well-received. Organizers agreed that these informal morning sessions should take place daily during future Conferences.

They also agreed to expand the Interactive Media project, stepping up outreach and promotion well in advance to generate greater awareness among NGO representative and the general public of the webcast and interactive possibilities. The United Nation's French-language and Spanish-language interpretations of the live web cast would be broadcast as well.



A networking breakfast at the United Nations staff cafeteria was held on the third day of the Conference.

The Planning Committee also agreed to step up fund-raising efforts so that United Nations Information Centres in developing countries could organize more parallel meetings relating to the Conference.

Survey participants also suggested mandatory participation of all Planning Committee members in at least one sub-committee.

The 57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference is tentatively scheduled for 7-9 September 2004. The NGO town hall meeting at United Nations Headquarters to discuss possible themes is scheduled for 20 November 2003.

This Final Report, the complete 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference Programme as well as select speeches, photos and archived web casts of the plenary sessions can be accessed at <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/>. The French and Spanish versions of this report are available on the web site.

Paul Hoeffel

Chief, Non-Governmental Organizations Section

Co-Chair, Conference Planning Committee, Department of Public Information

Conference Programme

Monday, 8 September 2003

Opening Session

Welcome:

Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information of the United Nations

Addresses:

Jan Kavan, President of the Fifty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Louise Fréchette, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Keynote Address:

Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Chair, High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations

NGO Welcome:

Joan Levy, Chair, NGO/DPI Executive Committee

Renate Bloem, President, Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO)

Fannie Munlin, Chair, 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

Conference Programme

Monday, 8 September 2003

Afternoon Session

Psychological Aspects of Human Security and Dignity

Societies have developed a variety of norms, processes and institutions to improve the security and dignity of their citizens. To achieve real social stability and prosperity, however, experts have recognized that people must be able to reach their full potential and fulfill their creative and spiritual needs. A breakdown of societal processes and institutions can cause enormous fear and loss of dignity. Failure to assure human rights, adequate economic and social security and opportunities can be psychologically devastating.

This panel will address the psychological complexities of human security and dignity, focusing on mental health, spirituality, prejudice and tolerance. It will examine people's perceptions of security and dignity as well as ways they recover from trauma and disruption resulting from violence and chaos. What are the best practices to enhance a sense of belonging in society? What strategies are effective in combating prejudice and fostering tolerance and diversity? What civil society campaigns are effective in preventing breakdowns and enhancing healthy social, ethnic and religious environments that ensure collective security?

Moderator:

Giandomenico Picco, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations; Chief Executive Officer, GDP Associates Inc.

Speakers:

Joerg Bose, Director, William Alanson White Institute of Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis and Psychology

Anwarul Chowdhury, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, United Nations

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Cape Town; Adjunct Professor, Unilever Ethics Center, Natal University, South Africa

Nila Kapor-Stanulovic, Professor of Human Development and Mental Health, University of Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro

Afaf Mahfouz, Chair, Committee on the United Nations, International Psychoanalytical Association

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, 9 September 2003

Morning Session

Educating for a Secure Future

As United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has pointed out, education is key to the new global economy, from primary school to life-long learning. It is central to development, social progress and human freedom, and is the foundation for human dignity. Knowledge is the best defense against prejudice, poverty and oppression, and offers the greatest hope for lasting peace.

This panel will address the impact of education on socio-economic development and democratic reform. How do innovative human rights and peace education programmes cultivate the values, skills and attitudes that underlay dialogue, tolerance and conflict resolution? What strategies are needed to meet the Millennium Development Goals of narrowing the gender gap in primary and secondary education by the year 2005? How will they ensure that children in all parts of the world are receiving a minimum of a primary school education by 2015?

Moderator:

Cream Wright, Chief, Education Section, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Speakers:

Anuradha Chenoy, Professor, Centre for Russian, Central Asian and European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Margaret Dabor, Commissioner, National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights, Sierra Leone

Judy Gaspard, Principal, Grand Caillou Middle School, Louisiana

Olivia Martin, Network Integrator, Brazil Office, Global Youth Action Network; Network Coordinator; International Peace Alliance

Elton Skendaj, National Coordinator, "Peace and Disarmament Education to Disarm Children and Youth" Project in Albania

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, 9 September 2003

Afternoon Session

From Oppression to Empowerment

Oppression can take the form of unjust hardship and tyranny. It may restrict people's identity. In the extreme, tyranny has power over life itself. The universal need to be recognized and valued often moves people to fight for their human rights and dignity. Many groups have struggled from oppression to a place of empowerment. Others have created supportive environments in which they thrive despite oppression. The United Nations plays an important role in empowerment, either by assisting in democratic elections or taking the struggle for gender equality to a new level.

This panel will look at the extraordinary efforts of those who have succeeded in their quest for empowerment. It will examine the key motivators and kinds of leadership inspiring these groups to challenge the status quo. How did success change the way they were perceived by the dominant culture? How was this struggle communicated and experiences shared? How has empowerment fundamentally changed oppressed people? What steps were taken to educate mainstream society and to ensure permanent change?

Moderator:

Danny Glover, Actor and Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Speakers:

Nasrine Gross, United States Representative, Negar-Support of Women of Afghanistan

Dumisani Kumalo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations

Ole Henrik Magga, Chairman, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, United Nations

Olga Smyrnova, Focal Point for Youth, United Nations, Ukraine

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, 10 September 2003

Morning Session

Sustainable Development in the Context of Globalization

Our action to combat environmental degradation and unsustainable consumption of resources deeply affects the health of the planet and the well-being of its inhabitants. The ways we harvest the Earth's bounty and arrange for the equitable distribution of its resources are among today's most pressing concerns. United Nations Member States have pledged to dramatically reduce and ultimately eliminate extreme poverty and hunger, while ensuring environmental sustainability. As we move toward these goals, we must carefully adopt strategies and policies that recognize the fundamental rights of all the world's citizens to food security, fresh water, gainful employment and healthy, sustainable habitats.

This panel will explore globalization and the increasing reliance on the private sector to meet the complex and conflicting needs of the world's people. What impact has the privatization of natural resources had on rural communities? Which energy policies foster economic and environmental well-being? How can civil society and global public opinion be instrumental in persuading Governments and the business community to adopt policies and practices that enhance our lives?

Moderator:

Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, Senior Advisor, Office of the Managing Director, World Bank

Speakers:

Jocelyn Dow, Executive Director, Liana Cane Interiors; Executive Director, Red Thread, Guyana

Meryem Essafi, Producer, *Environmental Problems*, Moroccan Radio Television (RTM)

Ashok Khosla, President, Development Alternatives Group, India

Hune Margulies, Executive Director, Community Development Partners for the Americas

Roland Wiederkehr, Member, Swiss Parliament; Founder, Green Cross

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, 10 September 2003

Afternoon Session

A Conversation with Eminent Persons on Global Trends and Strategies

Trends defining the evolution of societies today have become increasingly global. The ageing of populations worldwide as well as explosive urban growth and rural neglect are accelerating. As we witness the emergence of the so-called information society, the gap between developed and developing societies is widening, thwarting the advance of press freedoms and cultural and informational exchange. HIV/AIDS and other pandemics profoundly affecting the development and security of entire nations continue to claim millions of lives every year. Burgeoning civil society movements and the emergence of global public opinion are powerful new forces that need greater scrutiny.

A special closing session of the Conference will feature leading policy makers from around the world in a discussion of these emerging global trends. The programme will include input from the NGO audience at United Nations Headquarters and, through interactive media technologies, from participants at remote sites elsewhere in the world.

Moderator:

Barbara Crossette, Columnist, *UN Wire*

Speakers:

Kingsley Moghalu, Director, Resource Mobilization and Global Partnerships, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Mary Racelis, Research Scientist, Institute of Philippine Culture, Ateneo de Manila University; Member, High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations

Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals; Director, The Earth Institute, Columbia University

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, 10 September 2003

Closing Session

Chair:

Paul Hoeffel, Chief, NGO Section, United Nations Department of Public Information

Keynote Address:

Sadako Ogata, Co-Chair, Commission on Human Security, United Nations

Closing Remarks:

Fannie Munlin, Chair, 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

Précis of Presentations:

Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations

United Nations, New York, 8 to 10 September 2003

Opening Addresses



Louise Fréchette and Shashi Tharoor

SHASHI THAROOR, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, opened the Conference saying it provided a valuable forum for United Nations, Government and NGO officials alike to ensure that living secure and dignified lives remained viable goals, through common commitment and international solidarity. This year's Conference took place just weeks after the bombing of the United Nations offices in Iraq killed 15 staff members and endangered dozens of dedicated NGOs working there. Its theme fittingly underscored the joint resolve of the United Nations and NGOs to carry on with the work of peace-building and collective security through strong partnerships and development strategies.

The number of NGOs associated with the Department of Public Information (DPI) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had risen to 3,000. Scores of these organizations worked, often hand-in-hand with the United Nations, to foster human security, education reform, sustainable development and people's empowerment. For the first time, the NGO Executive Committee and DPI had reached out to civil societies beyond the United Nations Headquarters' wall through a live interactive site, enabling people worldwide to follow and participate in the Conference via the Internet.

JAN KAVAN, President of the Fifty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly, spoke of his long personal involvement with NGOs in the Czech Republic, noting the essential role of strong civil societies and institutions in achieving human security. NGO participation had enriched the formal debates and outcome of many General Assembly special sessions on humanitarian and development issues. For example, Mr. Kavan had convened an open General Assembly meeting in September 2002 to explore partnerships between civil society and Governments in armed conflict prevention. The discussion led to the adoption in July of a General Assembly resolution that supports efforts to instill peace, prevent or mitigate crises and foster reconciliation.

For decades, NGOs had helped tailor United Nations programmes in the field to the specific needs of Member States. Increasingly, United Nations treaty bodies were relying on reports from NGOs to complement official data from Governments. NGO input was vital to help the United Nations achieve the ambitious Millennium Development Goals of poverty eradication and sustainable development in the coming decades.

LOUISE FRÉCHETTE, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, said the Conference theme of "Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations" was a timely reminder of the collective responsibility of world leaders and civil society to strengthen the United Nations and forward the agenda of peace, development, environmental protection and respect for human rights. It was also a reminder that security was not just a matter of protecting States from military danger, but also of ensuring security and dignity for all through adequate food and shelter, clean water, good health care, quality education and protection from natural and man-made disasters.

Achieving these objectives, as called for in the 2000 Millennium Declaration, would contribute to human development and conflict prevention. NGOs were uniquely qualified to rally people worldwide to lobby Governments to implement poverty eradication and sus-



Jan Kavan

tainable development targets. "You can make an enormous contribution in helping to translate these global goals into concrete gains for people at the local level. You can also be instrumental in bringing local concerns and realities to the attention of decision-makers, both at the national and global level," Mr. Fréchette said.

She pointed to the widespread impact of such efforts. More than one billion people had no access to safe drinking water; two billion lacked basic sanitation services. Halving these numbers by 2015 would significantly reduce child mortality, malaria, poverty and hunger while empowering women and improving the lives of slum dwellers.

FERNANDO HENRIQUE CARDOSO, *Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General and Chair of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations*, paid homage to his fallen colleague and fellow Brazilian, Sergio Vieira de Mello, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Iraq, suggesting that Mr. Vieira de Mello's lifelong commitment to peace-building through dialogue and multilateralism be an inspiration to all.

Mr. Cardoso said civil society had an essential role in scrutinizing global regulations of today's most pressing concerns, from environmental degradation and financial volatility to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the drug trade. In the 1990s, the United Nations made full use of its convening power and moral leadership to welcome public debate of social issues through a cycle of major conferences. As this cycle comes to a close, the Organization must be creative in order to sustain the momentum of constructive citizen participation in global politics.

In the past, most conflicts were between States. Today, they were mainly within States or between States and uncivil groups or networks. New fault lines were dividing the North and the South, pitting social and cultural systems against each other. Civil society must work to end such divisions and deadlock. However, NGOs often felt frustrated by barriers to their participation in policy-making and programme implementation while Member States feared NGO input would undermine the intergovernmental process. This situation must not be taken lightly, he said, stressing the need to reduce distrust, demonstrate the effectiveness of collaboration and build consensus for a positive future.

Brazil had done just that to combat its HIV/AIDS crisis, Mr. Cardoso said, adding that his country's HIV/AIDS programme was among the world's best. Groups representing people infected with the HIV/AIDS virus and human rights organizations started the fight to end the stigma and discrimination many faced. This prompted the Brazilian Government to create a national awareness programme, pooling resources and expertise of both state and non-state actors. With funding from the World Bank, the State formed 1,500 operational partnerships with NGOs for innovative prevention and treatment. Public opinion also persuaded Brazil's Congress to adopt legislation ensuring free and universal access of antiviral drugs to all HIV/AIDS victims and to subsidize local production of generic medications. Large drug makers slashed prices of antiviral drugs in order to compete.

As a result, HIV/AIDS victims who had lived in fear and went untreated were now willing to get tested. They could also afford treatment. The death rate of HIV/AIDS victims has since dropped 50 per cent; hospitalizations



Nane Annan and Fernando Henrique Cardoso

have plunged 75 per cent. These successes gave Brazil the moral and political will to challenge the charge before the World Trade Organization (WTO) that policies for cost-reduction of drug prices violated the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement. Leading NGOs, the scientific community and groups representing HIV/AIDS victims joined forces to support Brazil's position. United Nations agencies adopted resolutions calling access to anti-AIDS drugs a fundamental human right and urged the WTO to enact trade policies that protected both patent rights and public health.

“On the very day of the opening in New York, in June 2001, of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on AIDS, the complaint against Brazil was withdrawn. I have no doubt in my mind that this favorable outcome was decisively influenced by civil society and public opinion,” Mr. Cardoso said. “They mobilized the energies and resources needed to deal with a national health emergency. With their counterparts in other countries they built up the compelling case for global policy changes that mirror the changes we adopted in Brazil.”

The Secretary-General's decision to take a fresh look at NGOs' work with the United Nations, by creating the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations was indeed timely and challenging. The Panel was drawing up recommendations to improve that relationship and would present its final report in April.

JOAN LEVY, Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, highlighted the Committee's efforts in the past year to help NGOs more effectively interact with United



Joan Levy



Fannie Munlin

Nations and Government officials and to better communicate United Nations messages to their constituencies. For example, in recent communications workshops, United Nations staff members and NGOs shared tips on ways to effectively use web sites, listservs and interactive media, and to hone oral communications skills. The Committee had redesigned its website, providing users with detailed information and links to relevant United Nations staff and activities.

The DPI/NGO Section's new online conference forum provided for the first time a live venue for discussion, dialogue and feedback while the Conference was in progress to anyone with Internet access anywhere in the world. Moreover, the Outreach Committee had developed smaller, online-forum pilot programmes elsewhere to facilitate networking among NGOs and bring new organizations into the fray.

RENATE BLOEM, President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), noted Mr. Vieira de Mello, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Iraq who died in the terrorist bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad in August, had believed firmly in the concept of human security to both protect and empower the Iraqi people. The Conference gave participants an opportunity to discuss Mr. Vieira de Mello's beliefs. During its meeting in December, CONGO's General Assembly would assess world events in the last decade and the future role of human rights in the information age.

FANNIE MUNLIN, Chair of the 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference and Co-Chair of the DPI/NGO

Conference Planning Committee, said that last November more than 200 NGO representatives chose human security and dignity as this year's Conference theme to bring attention to its true meaning at a time when human well-being was in jeopardy. This theme reflected NGOs' commitment to the principles set forth in the preamble of the United Nations Charter: to save future generations from the scourge of war; to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights – in the dignity and worth of the human person; equal rights of women and men; and to establish conditions for the maintenance of international law.

Ms. Munlin dedicated the Conference to the victims of the tragic bombing of United Nations headquarters in Baghdad.

“More than 3,500 NGO representatives from 100 countries registered to be with us today. I think

these figures demonstrate the remarkable solidarity of non-governmental organizations worldwide for who the call for human security and dignity are not mere words, but real flesh and blood aspirations held by people both rich and poor, young and old, from the global North and the South.”

She called on those present to work together during the three-day event to end violence, oppression, bigotry and poverty through information sharing and partnership development amongst themselves and through alliances with governments, the private sector and other civil society actors.

Psychological Aspects of Human Security and Dignity



The Plenary Sessions in Conference Room 4 were attended by a record number of representatives during the three-day Conference.

GIANDOMENICO PICCO, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Year of Dialogue, said he was not convinced that society needed to learn from history because he was not sure that history in fact existed. Rather, biographies existed and gave people an opportunity to learn from the past. He then read a poem, asking panelists to shed light on his inquiries. "Are there children of a lesser God? Are there lives which have less worth? Are there truths which are more so? Ignorance, mother of so many crimes, arrogance, maker of so much injustice, hatred, fueler of so much destruction, can we have justice without punishment? Can we have forgiveness without fear? Can we have peace without force? Are there children of a lesser God? Are there lives with less worth? Are there truths which are more so?"

JOERG BOSE, Director of the William Alanson White Institute of Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis and Psychology, said Western culture viewed dignity as an attribute of the individual who was in full possession of his powers and competencies, and affirmed by the admiration and respect of others. However, in Mr. Bose's view, human dignity emerged in societies that valued the rights of human beings and showed compassion for the deprived, enslaved, victimized and humiliated. Regaining dignity was a long, complex process for severely traumatized people. Pahly Nuon, who created an orphanage and center for Cambodian women in Phnom Penh,

embraced this philosophy, providing both physical care and therapy to Cambodian war victims.

Lost dignity also manifested itself in belligerent backlash. For example, those suffering from widespread indignity in poverty-stricken regions often voluntarily sought martyrdom. Committing suicide for a noble cause was a way of transforming passive victimization into an illusion of dignity at a terrible price. People needed ownership of their lives and history, no matter how terrible or humiliating. Reconciliation and private and public compassion would precede restoration of dignity.

ANWARUL CHOWDHURY, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, said human security could no longer be defined in military terms alone. It must encompass economic development, social justice, environmental protection, democracy, disarmament and respect for human rights and the rule of law. As stated in the Secretary-General's Millennium Development Report, human rights abuses, the destruction of civilian populations, terrorism, HIV/AIDS, drug trafficking and environmental disasters were direct threats to human security.

However, such security was often difficult to measure. Its absence was more easily detectable as it had serious negative psychological effects on individuals and communities. The trauma resulting from war and civil conflict left political refugees permanently scarred and wounded, often suffering from post-traumatic stress and separation anxiety. States were primarily responsible for creating protective infrastructure for their citizens, enabling them to make wise choices. Public opinion and civil society played an increasingly important role in violent conflict prevention and poverty eradication, thus contributing to this process.

PUMLA GOBODO-MADIKIZELA, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Cape Town and Adjunct Professor in the Unilever Ethics Center at Natal University, both in South Africa, highlighted the brutal forms of violence that persisted in South African society in black townships. Trauma, she said, was passed down through the generations, through silence, fear and unacknowledged psychological scars and pain. Child rape, for example, had particularly wrecked poverty-

stricken black townships. People often coped with early childhood trauma by identifying with the perpetrator, feeling they could regain lost power by stepping into their aggressors' shoes.

“For today’s ‘re-enactors’ of past trauma, the dignity and respect that was lost through the humiliation of apartheid has not been regained; while political change has given power and economic success to a few, they, the re-enactors, remain buried in the abyss of economic and psychological suffering, plunging them back into the vortex of violence,” she said. “What concerns me about the violence in South Africa is the brutal form it has taken in recent years, in the form of violent enactments that seem to be targeting innocence itself, the very essence of life.”

Measures for quelling violence – such as better policing, more effective procedures for arrest and improved rates of criminal conviction - were necessary. However, public dialogue and Government initiatives to redress past inequities were far more vital in the long-term. The South African Government had adopted sweeping legislative reform to empower previously disadvantaged groups, including women. Still, more must be done, including education and skills training for youth, so that violence-prone communities benefit from these reforms and refrain from traumatic re-enactment.

NILA KAPOR-STANULOVIC, a professor of human development and mental health at the University of Novi Sad in Serbia and Montenegro and a consultant to the United Nations Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF) offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, said war, poverty and oppression deprived many children worldwide of

basic necessities, fueling a sense of vulnerability and despair for the future. Man-made disasters were particularly detrimental to child development, leaving serious and often permanent psychological scars. In the past decade, armed conflicts left two million children dead, more than four million physically mutilated and more than one million orphaned or separated from their families. Countless others had been forced to witness or take part in war crimes. Refugee populations were growing at an alarming rate, rising from 2.4 million in 1974 to more than 27.4 million in 1996. Children accounted for at least half of the estimated 574 million people displaced by war in 1996.

Children in post-conflict situations, abandoned by humanitarian agencies forced to attend to conflicts emerging elsewhere, were particularly vulnerable. Those trapped in chronic poverty, political or racial conflicts or exposed to years of trauma often suffered from inferiority complexes and lacked self-worth. By transcending difficult experiences, people could rise above them. Language played an important role in this process. For example, traumatized and abused people would benefit from being referred to as survivors rather than victims. Treatment programmes should aim to assist people in crisis, rather than labeling them as patients. Their goal should be to support the psychological well-being of affected populations rather than to treat victims.

AFAF MAHFOUZ, Chair of the Committee of the United Nations of the International Psychoanalytical Association, said a decade ago she attempted to introduce culture and development as well as a psychoanalytical approach to human development into United Nations forums. At the time, her proposals fell on deaf ears. The existence of this panel was proof that the United Nations had since begun to address the psychological aspects of culture and development. That discussion must focus on why socio-economic and sustainable development had yet to be achieved.

Many societies still tolerated human and civil rights violations. Developed countries still had double standards and invaded the South to presumably make Southern societies more civil and democratic. Confronting poverty, injustice and violence required a multidisciplinary approach. Psychoanalytic knowledge of child development, theory of identity, grief, mourning and re-enactment of traumatic experiences, must be integrated into socioeconomic development, particularly in health and education.



Nila Kapor-Stanulovic and Meryem Essafi (right)

Discussion Segment

NILA KAPOR-STANULOVIC, responding to a question on how NGOs could address mental health concerns in their communities, said the current supply of qualified therapists was too small to treat all those in need. Although not licensed therapists, caring NGO staff could and should be trained to implement psychosocial programmes.

As to how NGOs could work with societies where trauma re-enactment was a ritual, **PUMLA GOBODO-MADIKIZELA** said it was essential to understand the history and politics of violence-prone societies. Individualistic psychological approaches often didn't work. NGOs must engage communities to help them understand that their current behavior was rooted in past atrocities and traumatic experiences. They needed to discuss and confront painful memories. Through insight peo-

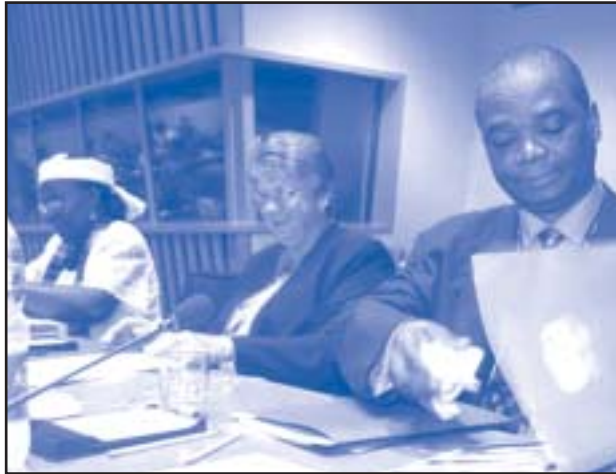
ple were more able and willing to pursue constructive, positive paths.

As to how to better prepare peace-keepers to deal with these issues, **AFAF MAHFOUZ**, pointed to the continued shortfall in funding and trained disaster mental health workers for pre- and post-deployment situations. The United Nations was slow to increase mental health services and personnel. It had less than 30 psychiatrists for the entire system. Two years ago, the United Nations Committee of the International Psychoanalytical Association (IPA) and Disaster Psychiatry Outreach (DPO) formed a partnership with United Nations mental health professionals to counsel peacekeepers. Last year, they began meeting regularly to assess the emotional needs of peace-keepers and devise more effective mental health care.



Fannie Munlin, Afaf Mahfouz, Joerg Bose, Giandomenico Picco, Anwarul Chowdhury, Nila Kapor-Stanulovic and Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela

Educating for a Secure Future



Margaret Dabor, Judy Gaspard and Cream Wright

CREAM WRIGHT, Chief of the Education Section of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said that while economic growth was critical for development, the global community had in recent years embraced the view that development was essentially about people, people's welfare, well-being and quality of life. Increasingly, education was treated as a means to address a wide range of social, political, cultural and economic problems caused particularly by discrimination, intolerance, globalization's new challenges and HIV/AIDS. That approach could help ensure that education led to sustainable development and a secure future for children.

Educational disparities existed everywhere, particularly in Africa and South Asia. In Africa, household surveys revealed that on average only 51 per cent of children in rural areas attended school, compared with 72 per cent in urban areas. In some African countries, rural school enrolment was as low as 30 per cent, and school attendance was highest among boys and wealthy children. Similar patterns existed in South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Education must not only prepare people to earn a living. It must give people a sense of belonging and self-worth, promote cultural diversity and tolerance of ideological and political differences. Moreover, it should be designed to foster learning in healthy, properly functioning societies as well as to promote recovery in post-conflict societies and developing countries.

The United Nations system, through the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All Initiative, was tackling these challenges head on. The 2000 Girls

Education Initiative, led by UNICEF, aimed to quicken the pace of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, particularly in the 25 most at-risk countries. The Fast Track Initiative, run by the World Bank, sought funding for States instituting education reform policies and programmes. How could NGOs do their part in this process? He advised participants to strengthen existing education and development partnerships with the United Nations; advocate for increased Government and private-sector funds for quality education, particularly in rural and marginalized communities; and lobby for increased girls education programmes.

ANURADHA CHENOY, professor at the Centre for Russian, Central Asian and East European Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India, said schools were breeding grounds for nationalism, where images, representations and messages endorsed the perspective of the society's dominant culture. Concepts of national history, heritage and world literature often excluded or minimized the history of marginalized communities and women's voices. In conflict-ridden regions, domestic violence and illiteracy, particularly among women, were high. State and non-state actors alike earmarked more funding for defense projects than education and social services. Schools in conflict regions tended to inculcate biases and sectarian views. In Pakistan, high-profile sectarian and terrorist groups such as Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, conceded this year that they had enrolled thousands of boys ages 18 to 25 as jihadi, or holy warriors, hundreds of whom had been killed in conflict. Children were molded to embrace militancy and jihad, making education itself part of the conflict. Leaders in liberal democratic States used terms like "us and them," "good and evil," "warriors and wimps," and "civilized and barbaric" to pit their communities against others. Women, often seen as symbols of their culture and homeland, were abused as an act of war against an entire community and its culture. For example, to terrorize and humiliate the enemy, soldiers raped thousands of women during the recent ethnic war in Bosnia and the civil wars in Liberia and Congo. While the use of force varied from country to country, violence against women remained constant in all societies.

NGOs could do their part to facilitate peace and gender equity by making education a civil society initia-

tive. They should mobilize popular movements and link social causes to schools, prepare surveys and status reports of schools in their areas, and fight for gender rights at the grassroots level. A good example of this was the 1991 public interest litigation filed in the Supreme Court by the People's Union for Civil Liberties which called for creation of a free lunch programme to end hunger among schoolchildren and bring millions more who weren't attending school into the classroom. In 1995, the Indian Government started a central programme, which led to a dramatic increase in girls' school enrolment, creation of much-needed jobs for women in village schools and social mobility. Despite these successes, the programme was met with resistance from some state Governments, prompting NGOs to lobby for its implementation in areas where students continued to go hungry.

MARGARET DABOR, Commissioner of the National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights (NCDHR) in the Sierra Leone, said her country was struggling to recover from the decade-long civil conflict in the 1990s that had devastated the Sierra Leone's socio-economic, legal and political infrastructure and value system. More than 1,700 educational institutions had been destroyed, while children were taken out of the classroom and sent into combat or sexual slavery. Sierra Leone's literacy rate was 32 per cent; school enrolment in some rural areas was as low as 20 per cent. The Government was providing free education to girls in northern and eastern regions, where education standards and services lagged far behind those in western and southern areas. UNICEF and international NGOs such as the People's Educational Association, PLAN International and the Norwegian Refugee Council had created informal primary school programmes for children unable to attend school. Sierra Leone's Education Ministry had set up temporary educational programmes and schoolrooms for displaced students in war-affected areas, facilitating their re-entry into formal school settings.

Peace education should incorporate citizens' knowledge and experience, particularly in countries recovering from violent conflicts, and should be integrated into traditional subject areas. Scores of government and non-governmental peace and conflict resolution groups offered citizenship education, but their efforts were not coordinated, prompting officials to develop a standard peace and human rights education framework. Hatred and a desire for revenge ran deep among previously

warring neighbors in Sierra Leone, leaving communities vulnerable to renewed hostility. Programmes such as the 2003 Rehabilitation of Basic Education Project, funded by the World Bank and the African Development Bank, aimed to prevent this through confidence-building cultural and sports programmes; human rights education for chiefdoms; and community-based conflict resolution, trauma healing and reconciliation.

JUDY GASPARD, principal of Grand Caillou Middle School in Houma, Louisiana, shed light on her school's strategies to foster self-worth, dignity, and academic excellence among students. Most pupils were from socio-economically disadvantaged communities and by the time they entered school viewed the future and others with despair and mistrust. "My students grew up thinking strength was a means of achieving physical dominance over those weaker than them. Now they're seeing that their own strengths are something they can use to change their lives," she said.

Thanks to the Carbo Reading Styles Programme, which had led to dramatic increases in students' reading and comprehension skills, Grand Caillou was the first middle school in the United States to be selected as a national model for reading styles education. Graduates, of which 37 per cent were Native-American, seven per cent African-American and three per cent Asian-American, exhibited a love of learning and proved to be tough competitors in high school for their more economically advantaged peers. Under the programme, teachers test pupils' auditory, visual and tactile skills and then tailor reading methods and teaching strategies to the needs of each student or group of students. Teachers viewed students in terms of their learning strengths, and taught stu-



Judy Gaspard

dents to look at themselves and each other in the same way. They met with parents to discuss learning styles both in and out of the classroom.

OLIVIA MARTIN, network integrator of the Brazil Office of the Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) and network coordinator of the International Peace Alliance (IPAZ), said peace education meant more than just teaching conflict resolution. It involved addressing the root causes of violence. Children must learn that while conflict was a natural, healthy occurrence in life, violence as a solution was not. Moreover, peace education was not a new subject to be squeezed into an already crowded curriculum, but a learning approach to be integrated into relevant existing subjects. Peace was political. Wars were often waged for economic gain, she said, stressing that the arms trade was one of the world's most profitable businesses. With peace education, graphics and statistics could be used to reflect the disproportionate channeling of funds into defense rather than human security. "When seeking to hold Governments accountable for attaining the Millennium Development Goals in education, young people should, for instance, learn that the cost of a single nuclear submarine is the equivalent of the total education spending in 23 low-income countries with 160 million school-age children," she said. Students should also learn that a recent study based on United Nations data showed that funneling 10 per cent of global military spending into socio-economic development over 10 years would erase world poverty.

The Global Study of Media Violence of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) found that 88 per cent of children in the study admired the movie Terminator. The appeal of this kind of movie "hero" sent a message to children and youth that aggression was a good and fun way to solve conflicts and also offered status.

"It is time for history and social studies curricula to glorify peacemakers, not warriors, and to encourage young people to emulate the lives of people like Gandhi and Mother Teresa rather than Rambo and Terminator."

Brazil was making efforts to do just that, naming its Parliamentary Council for a Culture of Peace in Sao Paulo after Sergio Vieira de Mello, the United Nations Special Representative in Iraq who was killed in August.

Youth were key agents for change. The Global



Olivia Martin

Youth Action Network (GYAN) facilitated young people's participation in decision-making, by promoting educational projects on global issues. GYAN's website, shared with partner organization Taking ITGlobal, received more than 10 million hits per month, making it the most visited website for young leaders worldwide. In a recent report from the International Youth Parliament, run by Oxfam Australia, more than 400 young people worldwide submitted recommendations for decision-making to government agencies, corporations, multilateral institutions and NGOs.

Peace education resources and approaches must also reflect indigenous people's knowledge and values, including spirituality. Brazil's Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI) was taking the lead, publishing alternative textbooks, making educational films and conducting workshops to redress ethnocentric and paternalistic concepts taught in schools. Women also had a vital role in conflict management, she said, referring to the 2000 United Nations Security Council resolution that called for increased representation of women in all levels of conflict resolution and gender sensitivity in all United Nations peace-keeping missions.

ELTON SKENDAJ, National Coordinator of the "Peace and Disarmament Education to Disarm Children and Youth" project in Albania, said the civil unrest of 1997 left the country, one of Europe's poorest, with weak civil society and governance and a large stockpile of illegal weapons, one for every 15 people. After the United Nations and the Albanian Government successfully implemented a disarmament programme, the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA) and the Hague Appeal for Peace (HAP) created the edu-

cation project based on a holistic approach to peacemaking and peace-building. "Using local peace resources, we are creating and fostering alternatives to weapons and violence in our communities," he said.

Communities were treated as partners, helping to design and implement projects, while the international team provided technical know-how, money, computers and software. One year into the project, students had formed a youth parliament, debate clubs to foster critical thinking of weapons and security, and a school newspaper to share teachers' and students' stories of arms collections and peace-building. A youth activist summer school provided a forum for students to brainstorm for solutions to major human security problems in Albania, notably trafficking, blood feud and gender discrimination.

Still, challenges remained. Albania's current education system was rooted in domination and strict hierarchies that were legacies of the country's communist past. School communities were unaccustomed to making their own choices in open, democratic ways. Widespread poverty and meager wages left many teachers more preoccupied with feeding their families than improving their teaching skills. Dependency on outside donations for such international development projects was also a major concern, he said, adding that the UNDDA/HAP project coordinators were working to build local capacity to sustain the programme after current funding dried up in 2005.

Discussion Segment

As to why governments viewed peace education as a threat and how to diffuse these fears, **OLIVIA MARTIN** said the global community must make a concerted

effort to educate for peace and justice. This would create future leaders and conscious and aware voters who considered peacemaking a priority rather than military defense. No country should go to war without full support of its citizenry.

ANURADHA CHENOY, said Governments saw any change in the status quo - be it peace education or women's empowerment - as subversive. NGO grassroots activity often questioned these paradigms, challenging Governments' legitimacy. Concerning contact among Indian and Pakistani teachers and methods for teaching history in both countries, she said history was manipulated. In India, books that didn't support the perspective of the dominant Hindu majority had been thrown out. In Pakistan, textbooks for students in first through fifth grade portrayed men as superior and women in subservient roles. Education activists had since challenged this in court and through public advocacy and protests with varying degrees of success.

As to whether the Carbo Reading Styles Programme had changed students' social interaction, **JUDY GASPARD**, said among seventh and eighth graders physical fights had gone from being a daily occurrence to two per year on average.

Concerning education in war zones, **MARGARET DABOR** said schools were instrumental in fostering a return to normalcy for children during and after crises. Children with emotional trauma needed adequate therapy and guidance from trained mental health personnel before returning to a normal schoolroom. They also needed physical protection, which was often lacking in Sierra Leone since many law enforcement officials had fled the country during the decade-long war.



One of 31 Midday Workshops organized by NGOs associated with the Department of Public Information

From Oppression to Empowerment



An interview with Danny Glover

DANNY GLOVER, actor and Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said it was an important and critical time to be having the Conference. This year marked the fortieth anniversary of the historic civil-rights March on Washington. The words of wisdom Martin Luther King gave to the world that day still rang true today. In his 1964 acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. King had spoken of the world's three greatest evils: violence, poverty and war. His vision was particularly important for today's NGO gathering and discussion.

Mr. Glover then quoted Dr. King's words: "I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their body, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirit. Nations have frequently won their independence in battle. But in spite of temporary victories, violence never brings permanent peace. It solves no social problems. It merely creates new and more complicated ones. Violence is impractical because it is a descending spiral in the eminent destruction for all. It is amoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than win his understand. It seeks to annihilate rather than divert. It destroys communities and makes brotherhood and sisterhood impossible. Violence ends up defeating itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers." Dr. King had called poverty one of the most urgent items on the agenda of modern life. The revered leader had held rich nations responsible for developing, schooling and feeding poor communities, saying that a great nation was a compassionate one. Moreover, experience showed us that war

was obsolete. Nations should be decreasing rather than increasing their arsenals of weapons of mass destruction. War would only lead to a calamitous legacy of human suffering, political turmoil and disillusionment.

Many of Dr. King's concerns were even greater today, Mr. Glover said, adding that the annual DPI/NGO Conference still had a long way to go in addressing these problems. He asked panelists to consider what was meant by empowerment and empowerment for whom. He asked how to give a voice to people who were often marginalized by their Governments and how to bridge the gap between the North and the South. What could the North learn from the South in coping with poverty and HIV/AIDS? What could be done to more effectively mobilize and empower civil society?

NASRINE GROSS, the United States representative of Negar-Support of Women of Afghanistan, a Paris-based non-governmental organization that supports Afghan women's rights, said after a 37-year exile, she returned in September 2001 to her native Afghanistan, bringing a group of American women with her to witness the plight of Afghan woman. From 1996 to 2001, the Taliban and Al-Qaeda systematically eliminated every inalienable right of Afghan women by religious decree. This was a political decision to divide and conquer the country that proved to be very successful. Negar began a campaign to reverse this injustice. In 2000, it brought together 300 Afghan women living in exile to Dushanbe, Tajikistan to draft the Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan Women. More than 300,000 people - among them Afghanistan's President and former and current Chief Justice, the President of the European Union Parliament, France's defense minister and the United States' Special Representative for Afghanistan - had since signed the declaration.

"Negar is in process of making sure that the new Afghan constitution will have equal rights for men and women as citizens so that history will not repeat itself," she said. "This constitution will be the first created in the Muslim world in the 21st century. We could make it the standard bearer of treatment of women. We must not let this opportunity slip away."

Negar had already delivered 100,000 signatures supporting its declaration to the religious commission drawing up Afghanistan's new constitution, and planned to hand in 200,000 more in December one week before the law was ratified. Also in December, 2,000 women would converge at a conference in Kabul. She urged participants to join them and to sign Negar's equal-rights declaration. "The right of women is a political problem, a problem of power, and we must respond in kind," she said. Negar's campaign was met with great resistance by countries where women's rights were not fully accepted. These nations did not want Afghanistan to move beyond its current crisis toward a democratic State with equal rights for women. Nor did groups like Al-Qaeda and the Taliban want to lose their stronghold in the country.

She then shed light on the difficult, painful process of reconciliation occurring in Afghanistan, where a generation of men who knew no life than that of a soldier was struggling to develop a new livelihood. She relayed the story of a 28-year-old illiterate freedom fighter whose wife and brother had been killed by Al-Qaeda, leaving him to raise his and his brothers' eight children alone on a \$30 month salary. In the last 24 years, Afghanistan had bred at least 700,000 freedom fighters like him, eager to put down their guns but scared that their families would starve in the process. She pleaded with the NGO community, the United Nations and the United States Government, through its Department of Veteran Affairs, to go to Afghanistan to bring fighters out of fear and isolation, and to help them develop job skills and close the chapter of war in their lives. People who did not have inner peace, could not build peace.

DUMISANI KUMALO, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, said NGOs were an essential part of the United Nations work and successes, and in keeping Governments honest. The war against apartheid would not have been won without the NGO community's pressure on Governments to stop cooperating with the South African regime. In the late 1940s, India brought the issue of South Africa to the United Nations, which in 1966 declared it a crime against humanity. The critical mass of people that belonged to the African National Congress enabled it to lay down guiding principles in the struggle against apartheid. People were taught that white South Africans were not evil, the system of apartheid was, and that freedom and peace would only come from collective security. White South Africans were some of the greatest comrades

in that struggle and instrumental in setting up a truth and reconciliation commission after the fall of apartheid in 1994. Many people had tried to create similar commissions in other conflict areas, but had less success. In South Africa, reconciliation was working because victims and aggressors alike had agreed to set up a forum to fully disclose the abuses they had inflicted on each other.

Member States did not have the sole wisdom to solve the world's problems, he said, adding that "just because one is running Government doesn't make him wiser than those who aren't." Human rights leaders knew that freedom could not be imposed from the outside. Even though incarcerated, Nelson Mandela knew he was free. Apartheid had ended just 10 years ago. White and black South Africans had learned that they needed to trust each other, and that this would take time. Empowerment was not an event; it was a process. More than 200 years after the end of slavery in the United States, African-Americans still had to overcome oppression.

OLE HENRIK MAGGA, Chairman of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, said the endless suffering endured by indigenous peoples worldwide had made human security and dignity for them in the past 500 years nothing more than a fleeting illusion. The world's 370 million indigenous people living in 70 States were among the world's most marginalized, uneducated, impoverished and unemployed. They grappled with social alienation, internal conflict, enslavement and economic hardship. Many had been the victims of genocide, pushed off their traditional territories and their children committed to institutions. For them, security involved the relationship between their peoples or nations and the State or States that had emerged in and around their traditional territories. Such States were often their greatest oppressors.

Their entry into the United Nations had also faced resistance. Not until 1977, did the United Nations give them a voice, allowing 150 indigenous peoples to participate in a conference in Geneva on discrimination against their communities. Indigenous groups persevered to bring their issues and concerns into United Nations debates, actively supporting the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Rio Declaration and other international processes on environmental protection, climate change, the protection of cultural heritage and indigenous intellectual property.

The United Nations proclaimed 1993 the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples and 1995-2004 the International Decade of the World's



Ole Henrik Magga

Indigenous People. In 2000, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was formed to raise awareness of and advise the United Nations on economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights for indigenous groups worldwide. Governments often viewed indigenous issues as a matter of welfare. However, in articulating their collective rights through such mechanisms as the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, indigent groups had scored several successes in their home countries. "Indigenous people have learned that to be heard, we have to be, as, if not more, politically and legally sophisticated than the Nation States," Mr. Magga said. "We have empowered ourselves by accumulating information and experience about each others situations and about the United Nations over many years. We have built alliances with our friends in the environmental movement, the human rights movement and with our NGO communities."

OLGA SMYRNOVA, the focal point for youth at the United Nations Office in Ukraine, said her countrymen had fought a silent war for 70 years under the oppressive regime of the former Soviet Union. Ukraine, then the breadbasket of the USSR, witnessed the death of an estimated 3 million to 7 million of its people due to forced starvation in the 1930s. Tons of grain were left to rot, and desperate people resorted to cannibalism. The former USSR succeeded in its quest to strip Ukrainians of their dignity. Before and after World War II, Ukraine's intellectuals, scientists, doctors, teachers and lawyers were tortured and imprisoned for speaking their native languages and cultivating their own ideas and cultures. Indigenous Crimean Tatars in the southern republic of Krania were deported to Siberia and Uzbekistan, while Uzbeks and Russians were sent to take over their homes and land.

Ukraine was a founding member of the United Nations, but had no independent voice under Soviet rule. Even today, 13 years after declaring independence, Ukrainians struggled with decision-making. Youth were not given the tools and training to make choices. Conformity was the norm. This was slowly changing. Young people were gradually learning to take initiative and the United Nations office in the Ukraine was helping them do so. Last year, it set up an all-Ukrainian Youth Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, inviting youth leaders from around the country to participate and develop action plans to improve their daily lives. Youth representatives of international NGOs and refugee organizations attended. So did organizations representing blind people, endeavoring to rid the practice under Soviet rule of committing the disabled to institutions. After the summit, youth leaders presented their action plans to mayors and heads of regional state administrations.

"We're seeing now that the authorities are listening to young people," Ms. Smyrnova said. "Some (mayors and heads of regional state administrations) have invited young people to form youth advisory boards on city councils. Some now hold regular meetings on youth issues and have begun implementing projects to best advise young people. It's a pleasure to see this transition from oppression to empowerment in the Ukraine."

Youth looked up to their elders, to people with status and in positions of authority. However, the words of the young often fell on deaf ears, she said, appealing to Conference participants to listen to and involve young people in their future work and decision-making.



Olga Smyrnova with NGOs

Discussion Segment

Responding to questions on how economic globalization was impacting his work in preserving the rights and culture of indigenous people, **OLE HENRIK MAGGA**, said throughout history most host societies attempted to re-create indigenous people in their own image, thus teaching indigents that their identity and culture, and ultimately themselves, were worthless. This phenomenon still existed today. Regarding land rights, in the past Governments entering indigenous territories seized property, claiming the native populations lacked the proper land titles to prove ownership. Today, despite international conventions to end this practice, the situation was worse. Corporations got around the laws by promising development would benefit everyone. In reality, they stripped indigenous lands of their resources, leaving behind only sand and pollution.

Concerning the lessons learned during the first post-apartheid decade, **AMB. DUMISANI KUMALO** said South Africans had realized that democracy and freedom would not mean much as long as some people did not reap its benefits. In 1994, only 20 per cent of the country's 25 million people were considered citizens. White South Africa was educated and highly developed; black South Africa backward and poor. This was slowing changing. South Africans had also learned that that their hard-won democracy could unravel if violence and anarchy continued to rule the rest of the sub-Saharan continent.

As to how to improve dialogue among Governments, the United Nations and civil society, he urged all NGOs to be proactive and not to wait for Member States to decide the terms of the relationship. The United Nations was in a very serious crisis. Many voices and groups wanted to shut it down. In many countries, particularly in Africa, NGOs wanted to remove Govern-

ments from power. This made Member States wary of NGOs and called into question the source of their funding and supporters. He told participants not to be discouraged if they were not well-received by Member States. "We will stand up in the General Assembly Hall and denounce you, but we will hear you," he said.

Regarding the impact of the former Soviet Union's education system on the decision-making skills of Ukrainian youth today, **OLGA SMYRNOVA** said the communist education system and society at large taught young people to accept the views of authority figures as valid and true. While that system was academically top-notch, it failed to encourage and nurture critical thinking and intellectual independence. Under a democratic Ukraine, this was changing, as schools introduced courses in critical thinking and taught students analytical skills.

As to Afghan women's status and rights before the 1979 conflict, **NASRINE GROSS** said since the 1930s Afghan women had access to higher education. The 1964 constitution gave men and women equal rights and paved the way for women's involvement in all aspects of economic and political life. Four women, including Ms. Gross' mother, were elected to parliament. In 1965, the first female health minister in the world was appointed. By the time the Taliban emerged as a formidable threat, women represented 60 per cent of Afghanistan's civil servants, 70 per cent of its schoolteachers, 75 per cent of health workers, including doctors, and 50 per cent of university students. While Afghanistan was still a conservative developing country, women, particularly in urban areas, had made significant advances. The Taliban manipulated the principles of Islam to roll back that progress, claiming that under Islamic tradition women were inferior to men.



For the first time the general public was given access to audio and video web casats live through their personal computers.

Sustainable Development in the Context of Globalization

ALFREDO SFEIR-YOUNIS, Senior Advisor in the Office of the Managing Director of the World Bank, said the Conference was taking place at a crucial moment in history. Many in the United Nations were still trying to heal the wounds of the Baghdad tragedy. Insecurity was not merely physical. It was also psychological, social, economic, financial, environmental, institutional, spiritual and religious. Peace and freedom required both material and spiritual well-being and growth. However, current sustainable development and globalization strategies failed to address all these aspects. Societies tended to focus first on industrialization and growth, and worry later about cleaning up the ensuing environmental and social mess. No global social contract existed today to ensure that growth produced the right results. The world's greatest challenge, he said, was to achieve human security for all and for universal benefit.

JOCELYN DOW, Executive Director of Liana Cane Interiors and President of the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), said WEDO founder Bella Abzug set up a women's caucus in 1991 to send to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At UNCED, Ms. Dow and others brought their experiences to bear on what they thought would be an agenda for the new century based on equity and fairness. Women understood very clearly that they had the capacity, but not the power to fix things. However, much of the Rio agenda had not been implemented. The environment and sustainable development agenda had been juxtaposed with the corporate profit agenda.

The Washington Consensus system behind globalization, which she called "a vampire system sucking the blood out of the suffering," was largely at fault. It was rooted in colonialism. Globalization in fact was nothing new, she said, pointing to the European conquest of the Caribbean. European colonialists had wiped out native populations to make way for settlers and slaves brought in to sow crops, largely for external consumption. In recent years, low-wage workers at Caribbean factories produced electronic parts for export back to Europe. Today, in Jamaica, manufacturers were bringing in women from Korea and China for low-wage jobs to produce clothes for the US market. This was indeed globalization, and it benefited only a select few.

However, there was an alternative. The "people's globalization" refused to allow Governments to speak in the name of civil society to oppress others. It was time to build on this global energy and solidarity to stop the privatization of water resources and to prevent the United States and Europe from strategically dividing the world based on one's resources. The key to sustainable development lied in sustaining development for all sectors of society. She then turned to the World Trade Organization's (WTO) ministerial talks to begin later that day in Cancun, Mexico. She hoped the talks would not advance until the injustices of the Uruguay Round on developing nations were redressed. She hoped to see then, as she had the previous day in Cancun, farmers, workers and civil society at large gathered on the streets to protest the current multilateral system.

MERYEM ESSAFI, a radio journalist focusing on environmental and political issues in the Middle East, said her country was going through the growing pains of building a legitimate democracy and a sustainable economy. The September 2002 legislative elections, in which more than 10 per cent of parliamentarians elected were women, an unprecedented percentage in the Arab world, were considered the most open and transparent in the nation's history. Morocco's WTO membership and trade agreements with the European Union would indeed be a boon for the economy. Public health and school enrolment had improved in the last few years, particularly in rural areas, thanks largely to State-efforts to bring much-needed water and sanitation infrastructure and healthcare services to rural communities.

At the same time, overpopulation, agricultural policy mismanagement and vagarious weather conditions were taking their toll on the environment to the tune of some \$2 million annually, or 8 per cent of the gross national product. Agricultural and industrial pollution, rapid urbanization of agricultural lands and desertification were leading to widespread soil degradation. Morocco's antiquated water supply network and silt clogging of major dams wasted millions of cubic meters of water annually, while much of the nation's natural resources had been stripped to promote economic growth. Moreover, officials had been lax in providing an environmental impact assessment of Morocco's entry into the WTO and new trade pacts with Western nations.

NGOs had an important role in Morocco's sustainable development process, and in bringing attention to human rights, women's empowerment, healthcare concerns and the fight to end illiteracy. However, half of the 400 organizations active in social services focused more on holding seminars and roundtable discussions than actual fieldwork. Some had no clear vision of their mission and lacked suitable personnel. While the media had also been instrumental in educating the public about national campaigns such as the fight to end illiteracy and improve infant health, more dialogue was needed.

ASHOK KHOSLA, President and Chairman of Development Alternatives Group, a sustainable development organization in New Delhi, India that promotes poverty eradication, environmental protection, technology development and responsible governance, defined sustainable development as "satisfying the basic needs of every single person in society and regenerating the resource base of which they depend." The most basic need was a sustainable livelihood – a job that generated purchasing power and brought meaning and dignity to people's lives. However, the world economy, owing to the needs of competition, was creating jobs that were unsustainable. While rapid economic growth in the last 50 years had brought benefits to some, unemployment, poverty, pollution, overpopulation and environmental degradation had also risen. Globalization had done little to improve the standards of living of the poor in the long-term.

"This puts into question the idea of trickle-down development. We need to rethink that strategy," Mr. Khosla said. "Value systems, knowledge structures, institutions and governance, economic instruments and technology – all of these have to change fundamentally and civil society is the flag-bearer of bringing about that change."

Sustainable development required sustainable consumption patterns and production systems, and making technology work for society's benefit, through capacity, research and innovation. In the past, technology had led to the exclusion of women and the poor from society. The challenge today was to use technology to bridge the gap between the farmer and the villager, the South and the North. Millions of people in the developing world were too poor to afford traditional concrete homes. Environmentally friendly mud houses proved to be a viable alternative, resolving the housing shortage in many

parts of India. Good technologies like these nurtured human potential, created economic opportunity and regenerated resources. Renewable energy, recycling, wireless technology, local water harvesting structures and local construction materials could all be instrumental in sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Development Alternatives Group had developed and employed new technologies to make handlooms, recycled paper and solar-fired stoves. Using new power-generation processes, it was converting weeds into electricity, worms into fertilizer and wastelands into livable areas. It built the Indian National Exhibition with unfired earth blocks and cement roofs for low-income and middle-income housing using ferro-cement. The company had also designed vertical shaft brick kilns which emitted 50 per cent less carbon dioxide than traditional construction equipment.

HUNE MARGULIES, President of Community Development Partners for the Americas (CDPA), said fragmented economic policies were largely responsible for sustaining poverty, particularly in the developing world. In many countries, such dire concerns as affordable housing, basic education, clean water and healthcare were often considered separate from national economic development and were addressed through side projects. Many Governments still had a paternalistic, discriminatory approach to economic policymaking, seeing themselves as solely qualified to determine the best course of action for society's overall well-being, and viewing local and native cultures as obstacles or psychological barriers to overcome in the name of progress. Indigenous people in Latin America, for example, were forced to abandon their cultures and customs in order to move beyond poverty.

Research showed that this centralized approach was unsuccessful in the long-term. The international community must adopt integrated and cost-effective poverty-eradication strategies that take into account societies' educational, social, environmental and health concerns. Native cultures should be viewed as viable resources for development, not liabilities. Projects must be locally owned and tailored to the needs of each region to ensure success and sustainability. For example, organic farming and eco-tourism in particular had proved successful in generating income in indigenous communities. States could replicate such programmes in areas with similar needs.



Roland Wiederkehr

ROLAND WIEDERKEHR, Founder of Green Cross and a member of the Swiss Parliament's National Council and Group of Independents, said he created the Green Cross in 1993 to foster development of alternative energy sources that would be conducive to peace-building. Governments had long ignored the negative environmental and public health consequences of war and conflict. It took a real concerted effort to convince them of the need to safely destroy weapons arsenals, clean up military facilities and lands, and to involve NGOs and civil society in that process. Public awareness and participation in responsible energy use could save many lives and prevent environmental degradation.

Still, the advancement of alternative energy faced major hurdles worldwide. For example, it was about to be stalled in Switzerland, as the Swiss Parliament planned to cut funding for alternative energy research in favor of nuclear energy development. The Green Cross was working hard to get the Swiss Government to reverse course as well as to prevent armed conflicts around the world caused by the shortage of resources. For example, it was poised to implement a water access programme in the Middle East. The United Nations road map for peace in that region would fail if the region's scarce water resources were not distributed equitably. The United States' continued dependence on fossil fuels was largely to blame for the war in Iraq. Replacing petroleum and nuclear energy with alternative sources would not only bode well for the environment, it would also prevent man-made tragedies.

“As we have just seen, Ashok Khosla has empowered people in India to develop their own alternative energies and to distribute them in a dem-

ocratic way,” Mr. Wiederkehr said. “Until now, people thought alternatives energies were used just to avert climate change and to protect the environment. But when you are working to employ alternative energy sources, you are really working to promote peace.”

Discussion Segment

Responding to a question on how poor nations could use their own resources to escape the poverty trap without emulating the West and the role of the media in facilitating this process, **MERYEM ESSAFI** said the media was the link between the public and theoreticians. It played a vital role in winning the public's approval of policies and programmes intended to achieve socio-economic progress. However, developing nations' programmes and policies were often prescribed by international institutions, and did not reflect the social and spiritual values of the societies where they were imposed. Such reforms were meaningless if large sectors of the population continued to live in abject poverty. This was the case in Morocco, where globalization was largely viewed as the culprit for the recent terrorist attacks in Casablanca. Suicide bombers were reacting to a system that did not respect their needs and values.

JOCELYN DOW said Governments must create enabling environments for sustainable development and must be open to grassroots solutions. The media could help by encouraging best practices.

As to what sustainable development projects launched by panelists had most benefited local populations, **ASHOK KHOSLA** said his company had built several hundred check dams to turn dry beds into rivers and bring much-needed water to crops throughout India. Some one million farmers who in the past trekked for miles to fetch water had benefited from improved irrigation. Internet connectivity would make the most marked improvement in the lives of Indian villagers since it give many people unprecedented access to information, products, services and know-how on many fronts.

As to steps NGO participants could take to stop transnational corporations from destroying the environment, **ASHOK KHOSLA** said the forum could legitimize and lay the groundwork for national and local policies that held corporations accountable for their actions. Ensuring corporate, social and environmental responsibility was key.

ROLAND WIEDERKEHR said most large energy companies were in fact destroying the Earth's bounty. Creation of a United Nations coordination agency for alternative energy, similar to the International Atomic Energy Agency that dealt mostly with oil and gas, was essential. Mr. Wiederkehr was using his political clout to make that happen, and had placed a motion in Swiss Parliament to form a United Nations energy entity in Geneva. The proposal was currently under review.

JOCELYN DOW said NGOs had to push for formation of a monitoring mechanism to track the progress of transnational corporations who were signatories to the United Nations Global Compact, a corporate social responsibility initiative. NGOs could create a standardized report card on multinationals, based on score cards used at the national level. NGOs affiliated with United Nations

Department of Public Information (DPI) should lobby the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to revive the TNC Watch, which exposed corporate polluters, particularly in small countries.

MERYEM ESSAFI said civil society must be strengthened. Powerful NGOs, along with the media, could educate consumers on corporate practices and sway the public to boycott goods which were not produced in an environmentally responsible manner.

As to whether overpopulation was the biggest threat to preserving the world's natural bounty, **JOCELYN DOW** said the world had sufficient resources to sustain everyone. The great disparity in access to those resources, mostly in the hands of a select few, was the real problem that must be addressed.



Conference banner hanging by the Visitor's Entrance on 46th Street and First Avenue

A Conversation with Eminent Persons on Global Trends and Strategies

- **BARBARA CROSSETTE**, a columnist for *UN Wire*
- **KINGSLEY MOGHALU**, Manager of Resource Mobilization and Global Partnerships at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Geneva, Switzerland
- **MARY RACELIS**, a member of the Secretary-General's Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations and a research scientist of the Institute of Philippine Culture at Ateneo de Manila University
- **JEFFREY SACHS**, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University

The following is a précis of the Conversation:



Barbara Crossette and Jeffrey Sachs

Barbara Crossette (BC): I will start off this discussion panel by underscoring the national and international relevance of NGOs in recent years. They have achieved great success in putting their concerns on the agenda of policy-makers. **BC to Mary Racelis (MR):** In the Philippines, for example, wasn't regional networking essential in ensuring the adequate representation and interests of the people?

MR: Regional mechanisms can help address key issues and this is also an area where the work of NGOs is very important.

Jeffrey Sachs (JS): The biggest problem is less about division than about inequality and maybe an interesting solution would be for developing countries to have their own summits rather than waiting to be invited to sit with the powerful countries for a short while and then being sent home.

MR: Yes, this is true. Beyond the functions and possible reforms of the United Nations main bodies, the way in which the institution interacts with civil society needs revision.

JS: I urge civil society and NGOs to work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to find a way to ensure the wealthy countries live up to the commitments they made on these goals and to ensure that resources are being allocated to the regions most in need.

Kingsley Moghalu (KM): There is clearly a lack of a "world view" on the part of developing countries. I also want to draw attention to the fact that Governments representing developing countries should be held accountable for failing to honor their commitments in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Global Fund simply could not function without the input of NGOs and civil society. To date, the Fund has already committed \$1.5 billion to 150 programmes in 93 countries to place half a billion people on anti-retrovirus therapy and to provide them with counseling services.

MR: In order to ensure that developing countries do more, there needs to be significant pressure from civil society. NGOs can help keep the important issues on the front burner and can achieve this not only by demonstrating, but also by sitting down and doing their homework. You need the data, you need the analysis, you need the partnerships we keep talking about to make this real.

JS: Without national and local leadership, nothing can be accomplished. However, let's not forget that wealthy countries cannot be left off the hook. Where did the peace dividend go? It went to Iraq. Where do we



Kingsley Moghalu with NGOs

need money? We need it in the Global Fund. The Global Fund is short, right now, \$3 billion per year just to fund the approved programmes. You are not going to get \$3 billion from Ethiopia, from Malawi, from Ghana, or from the NGOs. The \$3 billion could come from the United States Treasury. It could come from the European Union. It could come from the Government of Japan. It could come from other wealthy countries.

BC: I would like to raise the topic of the centrality of women in development and how to mainstream women in development issues.

MR: Women's movements worldwide help women recognize that what they do is important and valuable, and the United Nations has been instrumental in achieving this as well. Much has been done from the bottom up to address the needs of women and their families, but there needs to be an enabling mechanism to mainstream women and their access to credit, knowledge and information. It's no coincidence that the civil society sector, certainly NGOs, at least in developing countries, is heavily dominated by women. Maybe that's partly because the issues that are so obviously not being dealt with by our society are the issues that concern women the most.

BC: What about the serious concern for women in conflict? It is important to get women around the table at peace negotiations, especially because they are going to be rebuilding their societies at the grassroots level and need to have a voice in what is being decided. This is an area where civil society is fundamental since the issue is the rebuilding of a nation, a community or a society.

JS: There is a growing phenomenon in the feminization of poverty and the disproportionate burden on

women. This calls for spending resources in a way that reflects the needs and reality of girls and women in very poor societies.

KM: When communities are putting together programmes, for example for funding for HIV/AIDS, they need to pay particular attention to the burdens that women bear. I think that taps into a very important part of the structural and demographic reality in many parts of the developing world.

BC: In response to the question from the floor on how NGOs can help improve the image of the United Nations and accentuate the process of work by the United Nations throughout the world, what are your views?

KM: Undeniably NGOs are now part of the world of the United Nations. One concrete suggestion that I would make would be the establishment of education programmes at the grassroots level in many countries. NGOs can help spread the message of what the United Nations is doing and what it has achieved. One of the ways to promote this message in democratic countries is to use parliaments and national assemblies to speak with communities on the utility of the United Nations.

MR: I believe the biggest problem is in the United States. NGOs in developing countries know the United Nations very well. There is a weak response on the part of American civil society in speaking out for causes we all agree on.

JS: To the issues of how NGOs help the United Nations increase its role in ensuring human security while respecting national sovereignty and how the NGO community can help eliminate terrorism, I would call on the participants to become actively engaged in meeting the poverty reduction targets, within countries and internationally. At least formally, the door is open right now to civil society and NGOs can help empower governments to make demands of the wealthy countries.

KM: The challenge of civil society is to promote human security and to cross-fertilize these issues with traditional security concerns. In terms of security, I suggest bringing the HIV/AIDS pandemic to the Security Council under Article 99 of the United Nations Charter. This is an article that empowers the Secretary-General of the United Nations to bring to the attention of Security Council the steady increase of threats to international peace and security.

MR: On the question of the role of NGOs in eliminating terrorism, in Manila for example, I conducted a

great deal of research with community groups on urban poverty and urban squatter neighborhoods and settlements, where one-third the population of metro Manila live. The most seriously affected group is the out-of-school youth, especially male, but female also. I refer to youth age 14 to 22 who leave school by third grade, if they get that far, and then drop out with no chance of employment. And now they are getting picked up by drug syndicates. And this group is proliferating. Terrorism is another thing, but the urban poor population of young people is faced with grave living conditions. The only employment possibilities for them are either as couriers or in the drug trade, because nothing else is available. If we don't address the issues of the urban poor, we're in for even more serious problems.

BC to JS: Let's turn to trade issues. Could you give your views on what's going to happen in Cancun?

JS: This week there is a meeting of the ministers of trade of the World Trade Organization, to continue what is known as the Doha Round. And, of course, the Doha Round, when it was launched, was supposed to be the development round for trade. Many developing countries said, "You know, the last round, the Uruguay Round, it addressed a lot of things, but it didn't address so many of our concerns." It put in place a lot of policies, such as the intellectual property rights regime, which turned out to be a mess from our point of view, for instance, lack of access to essential medicines that fell under a growing net of patent protection. There seems to be a little bit of progress on that. But there is not a lot of progress that we're seeing on critical issues like access of poor farmers to the markets of wealthy countries that are protected in the agriculture sector. Or also to the access of poor workers, mainly women in textile and apparel factories, whose products can't get into the protected and highly tariff-charged markets in the wealthy countries. Unfortunately, in the United States, there's a slowdown in any progress as we approach presidential elections because you have special interest politics in swing states. And we have to keep the pressure up. U.S. policymakers talk about free trade, and then protect their agricultural textiles and apparel markets. That's another important item on civil society's agenda.

BC: I think NGOs have become sensitive in terms of cultural issues, and I think what effective human rights groups and others have learned with the genital mutilation issue in Africa and other issues is that you don't tell people what to do, that you work within cultures. I think

that's becoming better understood. But what is the link between culture and development?

MR: This is where North-South partnerships are so important. In the South, governments and local NGOs usually have a good sense of what can and should be done. But just because you're a national of the country doesn't necessarily mean you know what's best, just like because you're a woman doesn't mean you're going to advocate for women's issues. So there's a lot of re-thinking and education going on, as the awareness of culture as a significant factor that can make or break a programme. Culture is people's way of living a life that they value traditionally, that gives their life meaning, and helps them form their own world view.

BC to KM: Thank You. **KM,** from your experience, is the Global Fund a good example, of transparency built into your organization and the people you work with? Is that a good model for other United Nations efforts?

KM: Yes it is. It's a model we recommend. The Global Fund has on its board of directors, governments, civil society representatives, representatives of communities of persons living with the diseases and the private sector. The Global Fund is a public-private partnership. The only way Governments can access funds from the Global Fund is for this relationship to be replicated through the creation of a national country coordination mechanism. So, in every country, you have the Government, civil society, the private sector and a community of persons with the diseases, and they come together and build a proposal giving special attention to cultural considerations. And that proposal represents how that country sees itself being able to respond to the pandemics.



The above panel, *A Conversation with Eminent Persons on Global Trends and Strategies*, was ranked by the NGO representatives as useful for their work.

Closing Session



Paul Hoeffel

PAUL HOFFEL, Chief of the NGO Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) and Co-Chair of the DPI/NGO Conference Planning Committee, said the Planning Committee had brought new and diverse voices from the frontlines of civil society campaigns worldwide to take part in the Conference. A record 2,000 people, 40 per cent from developing nations, had participated. He hoped the event would send NGO colleagues home with a rekindled fire in the belly, a renewed commitment to working with the United Nations, and new tools and insights to bring to their communities and constituencies.

SADAKO OGATA, former Co-Chair of the United Nations Commission on Human Security and now Chair of the Advisory Board to the United Nations Secretary-General on human security issues, said a new understanding and consensus on security was urgently needed to address the resurgence of widespread and pervasive insecurities worldwide. In the past, State security focused mainly on protecting borders and people from external attacks. However, in the last 10 years, the concept of security had broadened. The world had come to understand that the dangers of environmental pollution, the spread of infectious diseases, massive population movements, the threat of transnational crime and terrorism as well as the dynamics of globalization could not be dealt with through traditional State control mechanisms alone.

“The terrorist attacks on the United States and Saudi Arabia, among others, the war on Iraq and its

tragic consequences, and the nuclear threat by North Korea, have challenged our traditional approach to security, and forced us to seek a new understanding and consensus on security for the coming century.”

Mrs. Ogata expressed great pleasure at having co-chaired the Commission on Human Security, along with Professor Amartya Sen, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Nobel Laureate in Economics, and then shared her views on security questions, as well as some salient points presented in the Commission's recently published report. For example, while serving as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, she realized that security threats to people often emanated from the very States that should be protecting them. Threats to national and international security came much more from internal sources than external aggression. The post-Cold War world of the 1990s was marked by internal communal conflicts with heavy ethnic undertones. This called for shifting attention to the security of people to complement State security.

The new Commission on Human Security, which embraced the twin ideals of “freedom from fear,” and “freedom from want” as goals for the new millennium, considered human security in terms of protecting people's vital freedoms from critical and pervasive threats, in ways that empowered them to fulfill their potentials and aspirations. It focused on people as the main stakeholders of ensuring security, with public opinion and civil society



Sadako Ogata, after her closing keynote address, is surrounded by NGO representatives

organizations playing an increasingly important role in conflict prevention and poverty eradication.

The Commission - after studying the situation in conflict areas such as Afghanistan, Central Asia and South Africa - proposed an integrated framework aimed at both protecting people through the rule of law, accountable and transparent institutions and democratic governance, as well as empowering them to help define and implement vital freedoms. "The protection-empowerment framework is embodied in the functioning of any well-governed State. It is the framework for nation-building, and provides crucial insights into the reconstruction endeavors of war-torn societies," she said. It gave equal importance to civil and political as well as to economic, cultural and social rights, ensuring that human rights' violations were addressed in integrated and comprehensive ways. Human security also added to human development policy by focusing on protecting people against sudden and unforeseen downturns that could lead to instability and conflict.

In its report, the Commission examined six broad areas from a human security perspective and made several policy recommendations. It analyzed the situation of people in conflict and called for firmer application of

human rights and humanitarian law; it also called for norms and practical measures to protect refugees, migrants and internally displaced people. Better management of the transition phase from war to peace, as well as universal access to basic education, healthcare and economic security were essential. States and international organizations must provide protection as required, while helping people to have a greater role in their own security. However, no progress could be made without the participation, commitment and action of civil society, she said, calling on participants to organize their communities and lobby their Governments and international institutions to restate priorities, policies and resources.

FANNIE MUNLIN, Chair of the 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference and Co-Chair of the DPI/NGO Conference Planning Committee, said the Conference's success would be measured by participants' future action. She urged everyone to share information gathered and lessons learned during the three-day event with NGOs not in attendance. She also called on the crowd to develop partnerships and collaborate with each other, enabling NGOs to become agents of change and to expand their good works to benefit others in the future.

56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference Planning Committee

Committee Chair:	Fannie Munlin National Council of Negro Women, Inc.
Registration Chair:	Gloria Landy World Council of Conservative Masorti Synagogues
Midday NGO Workshops Co-Chairs:	Joseph DeMeyer NGO Committee on Mental Health Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Maram Hallak Association for Women in Psychology Lynn Karpo-Lantz Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Reception Co-Chairs:	Elaine Valdov The International Institute of Integral Human Sciences Barbara Gathard The Ribbon International
Media Chair:	Diane Paravazian Armenian Assembly of America
Youth Chair:	Patrick Sciarratta Friendship Ambassadors Foundation
Interactive Media Chair:	Stephanie Mesrobian Armenian Relief Society
Fund-raising Chair:	Sherrill Kazan Alvarez de Toledo World Council of Peoples for the United Nations Academia Mexicana de Derecho Internacional

Conference Planning Committee Members 56th DPI/NGO Annual Conference Planning Committee

Adrienne Alexanian	Diocese of the Armenian Church
Hamesdouhi Beugekian	Armenian Relief Society, Inc.
Cheryl Brannan	Sister to Sister International
Marjorie Burns	National Baptist Convention of the USA, Inc.
Choon Whe Cho	Church Women United
Judith Duncan	The Ribbon International
Gloria Fischel	Women's League for Conservative Judaism
Eileen Gallagher Labiner	International Federation for Home Economics
Martha Gallahue	The National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union
Meg Gardinier	Hague Appeal for Peace
Penelope Giragosian	Armenian Relief Society, Inc.
Virginia Hazzard	National Women's Conference Committee
Judith Horowitz	World Council of Conservative Judaism
Pincas Jawetz	Sustainable Energy Institute
Anie Kalayjian	World Federation for Mental Health
Harriet Kazarian	Armenian Relief Society, Inc.
Pamela Kraft	Tribal Link Foundation
Judy Lerner	Peace Action
Joan Levy	End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking of Children, USA
Patrick McNamara	Association of World Citizens
Deirdre Mullan	Mercy International Association
Polwat Nakalak	Dhammakaya Foundation
Tsolin Nalbantian	Armenian Relief Society, Inc.
Estelle Perry	Center for UN Reform Education
Mindi Rahn	Seventh-day Adventist Church
Eva Richter	The International Federation of Business and Professional Women
Sonja Schlegel-Breemen	International Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research
Nadia Shmigel	World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organization
Janet Stovin	Women of Reform Judaism
Jonina Sutton	Women's International Zionist Organization
Mary Toumayan	Armenian International Women's Association
Narelle Townsend	Commonwealth Human Ecology Council
Moses Williams	American Planning Association Olof Palme Peace Foundation

Outreach Division United Nations Department of Public Information

Raymond Sommereyns, Director, Outreach Division

Civil Society Service, Outreach Division United Nations Department of Public Information

Ramu Damodaran, Chief, Civil Society Service

Non-Governmental Organizations Section

Paul Hoeffel, Chief

Maria Carlino

Holly Chen Tyson

Elizabeth Chomiak

Luis Delgadillo

Tala Dowlatshahi

Oleg Dzioubinski

Isolda Oca

Interns and Volunteers of the NGO Section

Laure Augier-Tessier

Nurgul Beishekeyeva

Sarah Cahillane

Timothy DeHart

Sarah Forman

Jenny Fredenborn

Emelie Hellborg

Rosie Herman

Andreas Hernadi

Josh Kron

Phillip Kuss

Ilhom Miliyev

Deliana Popova

Daniela Ragusa

Sonia Robertson

Anna Sandesjö

Matthias Schmitt

Peter Silverberg

Stephanie Strauss

Silvina Szelepski

Paul Szwedo

Claudia Vinay

Cheng Wang

Photographs by DPI/NGO Section



Members, staff, interns and volunteers for the 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

NGO Midday Workshop Rapporteurs DePaul University: School for New Learning Students

Patricia Szczerba, Assistant Professor
Anthony Nicotera, University Minister Students
Walter Clements
Pat Earnest
Edith Finsaadal
Stefano Francini
Andrea Gaglianai
Colette Henderson
Terry Jones
Sandra LaPorte
James LaRocco
Boe Miller
Danny Steinis
Michelle Smolarczyk
Debbie Szyska
Patrick Vrba

Webcast Email Monitors DePaul University: School of Computer Science, Telecommunications and Information Systems Students (in Chicago)

Stephan Fenoglio, Assistant Director, Graduate Advising

Students
Shadab Ahmed
Joseph Butler
Peter Chan
Aaron Cherrington
Matt Eubank
Tim Gebhardt
Arthur North

NGO/DPI Voluntary Contributors

56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference 2003

The NGO/DPI Executive Committee gratefully acknowledges the generous support of:

World Council of Peoples for
the United Nations

American Express

Congregation of Saint Joseph

Crystal Foundation

Judy Lerner

International Shinto Foundation

Tribal Link Foundation

8'th Daycenter for Justice	Ruth Goodgold	Elsa Mercado	Michelle Smolarczyk
Armenian Relief Society	Janet Gottschalk	Mary Miller	Iris Spellings
Armenian International Women's Association	Rhona Gulliver	Reese Boe Miller	Margaret Stadler
Angel Alcalá	Leila Haddad	Madeleine Morrissy	Anne Sterling
Adrienne Alexanian	Colette Henderson	New York Wine and Grape Foundation	Lane Stone
Renee Albert	Veronica Henry	Anthony Nicotera	Janet Stovin
Therese Bangert	Muriel Hertan	Sheila O'Friel	South Bronx Mental Health Council Inc.
Beryl Ric Allen	Edgar Housepian	Frank Oztrowski	Jonina Sutton
Sylvan Barnet	Stanley Hyde	Perhaps... Kids meeting kids	Patricia Szczerba
Grace Blake	I.A.R.F. North America	can make a difference	Deborah Szyska
Ilsa Bohn	International Relief Friendship Foundation	Estelle Perry	Junko Tano
Linda Bolitho	Imamia Medics International	Camille Macdonald-Polski	Marco Tavanti
Nancy Bramlage	International Federation of Social Workers-UN	Richard Lee Price	The Family School
Wes Cady	Loretta James	Mary Purcell	Adelaide Thomason
Walter Clements	Terry Jones	Mahmoud Ramadan	Jill Tardiff
Frank and Nancy Colton	Marcia Joondeph	Judge Edward Re	Mary Ann Tippet
Elizabeth Comeaux	Anie Kalayjian	Joy Renjilian-Burgy	Mary Toumayan
Don Conte	Angela Ann Kaufman	David Roth	Lucis Trust
Harold Cook	George Kelly	Barbara Rubin	Universala Esperanto Asocio
Daughters of Charity	Joyce Kovelman	Carmen and Mircea Sabau	Ida Urso
Jonathan Dean	Gloria Korecki	St. Patrick's Convent	Ursuline Sisters
Evelyn and James Dette	Rahmi Kumas	Barbara Settles	Verna Rapp Uthman
Madubuko Diakite	Regina Kusnir	Daniel and Katherine Sheinis	Manual Pillco Valenzuela
Joan Doherty	Madeline Labriola	Salesian Sisters	Barbara Martin Walker
Sigfried and Georgina Dohr	Loretta Land	Robert Schwartz	Dorothy Veon
Carolyn Donovan	Carole Lancaster	SCN Ministry Fund	Wellesley College
Marie Dugan	Geraldine Lancaster	Sisters of Charity	Cecilia Verdon
Patricia Dunne	Gloria Landy	Sisters of Charity Federation	Patricia Vrba
Patricia Earnest	Sandra La Porte	Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth	Barbara Wilk
Aaron Etra	James La Rocco	Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy	June Willenz
Janet Feldman	Heide Lazar	Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth	Enid Wallace-Simms
Edith Finsaadal	Irene Leger	Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's Inc.	Hannah, Oussama, Tarek Tabbara
Stefano Francini	Harry Lerner	Sisters of Loretto	Patricia Hill Williams
Solomon and Channa Friend	Norman Levitt	Sisters of Mercy	Won Buddhism of America
Katherine Gage	Joan Levy	Adelaide Smith	Nancy Woods
Andrea Gagliani	Mater Dei Provincialate Inc.	Mignoa Smith	World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations
Barbara Gathard	Humberto Martinez		World Goodwill
General Conference of SDA	Virginia Maynard		Anne Zanes
Global Health Action	Marylee Meehan		
Betty Golomb			

Annex 1

Media Report

From Brazil's Globo TV to Norway's NRK Radio to the Pakistan News Wire to the United Nations' *Africa Recovery* magazine, an unprecedented number of news outlets worldwide plugged viewers, listeners and readers into the rich discussions and outcomes of this year's DPI/NGO Conference "Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations" (8-10 September 2003).

In an interview with the *World Chronicle*, Kingsley Moghalu, from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, shed light on his organization's more than 150 HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programmes in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America, created to fight the deadly virus that claims the lives of six million people annually. Mr. Moghalu and renowned actor and Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Danny Glover held a press conference on 9 September, telling the *Accra Mail* newspaper, *Health & Medicine Week* magazine and other media that HIV/AIDS was the greatest threat to human security.

Olivia Martin, to whom NGO participants gave a standing ovation for her passionate speech on youth's role in peace-building, talked to *UN Radio* about the two youth action networks she was creating in Brazil. Ole Henrik Magga, who awed the crowd with a traditional song honoring a local mountain, a symbol of hope and faith for his community, met with *Scholastic News* and *ONRK Finnmark* to talk about life as a Sami in Norway and his work at the United Nations in protecting the rights of Samis and other indigenous peoples. Jihad Halabi, a nursing professor at the University of Jordan, sat down with the *Poughkeepsie Journal* to discuss the long-term impact of violence and insecurity on the psyche of ordinary citizens in the Middle East.

The Conference featured three daily press conferences, giving unaccredited correspondents the opportunity to interview such notables as Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former President of Brazil and Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations, as well as fellow Panel member and renowned sociologist, Mary Racelis. During a press conference on 8 September, they discussed how the crisis in Iraq had created a need to revitalize the global peace movement and to find new views, including those of NGOs and civil society, on how to guarantee that peace. At a news conference on 10 September, Sadako Ogata, former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Chair of the Advisory Board to the United Nations Secretary-General on human security issues, shed light on the work of the Commission on Human Security to form an integrated approach among States and civil society to reduce global suffering. Joining her, Roland Wiederkehr, a Swiss parliamentarian and founder of the Green Cross, said renewable energy use could go a long way in reducing insecurity and preventing future wars.

As of 1 November, 48 news outlets and NGO publications published or broadcast news about the Conference in a total of 10 languages, an increase in coverage of more than 50 per cent as compared to last year.

Press Interviews and Coverage as of 1 November 2003

- Art Center gets U.N. status as design resource, *Pasadena Star News*, 3 September 2003
- Interview: Kingsley Moghalu of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, *World Chronicle* #907, 5 September 2003
- JNF Scientists Gain International Audience at UN, *The Jewish Press*, 5 September 2003
- Interview: Fernando Henrique Cardoso/United Nations, *Globo TV*, 8 September 2003
- Non-Governmental Organizations have vital role to play in effort to meet Millennium Development Goals: Deputy Secretary-General, *UN Radio*, 8 September 2003
- Annual NGO Conference Addresses the Issues of Human Security and Dignity, *UN Radio*, 8 September 2003
- ONGs: FHC destaca na ONU o valor da sociedade civil, *UN Radio*, 8 September 2003
- Ouverture de la 56^{ème} Conférence du Département de l'Information de l'ONU sur le thème: "La sécurité et la dignité humaines : tenir la promesse es Nations Unies," UN Radio*, 8 September 2003
- UN, strong civil society needed more than ever at this "crucial period" - Frechette, *UN News Service*, 8 September 2003
- Interview: Renate Bloem, *Radio Vatican – French Service*, 8 September 2003
- Ex-presidente critica PT por uso politico dos cargos publicos: 'O Estado brasileiro e competente', *O Globo*, 9 September 2003
- AIDS, Malaria and TB greatest threats to human security, official says at UN, *UN News Service*, 9 September 2003
- NGO Conference Ends with Call for New Security Concept, *UN Wire*, 9 September 2003
- Annual U.N.-NGO Conference Opens, *UN Wire*, 9 September 2003
- Interview: Danny Glover, *Black Entertainment Television*, 9 September 2003
- Interview: Nila Kapor-Stanulovic, *UN Radio*, 9 September 2003
- Human Security Necessary to Complement State Security in a Globalised World: Sadako Ogata, *UN Radio*, 10 September 2003
- NGOs Conference Supports UN Efforts To Support Security, *The Pakistan Newswire*, 10 September 2003
- NGO Conference backs UN efforts to restore human dignity, *The Pakistan Newswire*, 10 September 2003
- Schweizer Nationalrat an der Jahreskonferenz der NGOs an der UNO, *Swiss Press Agency*, 10 September 2003
- ONGs: encontro na ONU fortalece o papel da sociedade civil, *UN Radio*, 10 September 2003
- Interview: Olga Smyrnova, *UN Radio*, 10 September 2003
- Interview: Sadako Ogata, *New Tang Dynasty TV*, 10 September 2003
- Interview: Roland Wiederkehr, *New Tang Dynasty TV*, 10 September 2003
- Annual DPI/NGO conference on human security and dignity: Fulfilling the promise of the United Nations, *The Herald No. 1399*, 10-11 September 2003
- Aids, Malaria, TB - Greatest Threats to Human Security, *Accra Mail* (Ghana), 11 September 2003; *AllAfrica.com*, 11 September 2003;
- Human Security and Dignity - Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations, *UN Chronicle Online Edition*, 11 September 2003
- Politics: Make room for the South on U.N. Security Council - *NGOS*, *Inter Press Service*, 11 September 2003
- Olivia Martin, una joven activista que trabaja para mejorar el mundo, *UN Radio*, 11 September 2003

- Interview: Olga Smyrnova, *Freedom Radio*, 11 September 2003
- Interview: Roland Wiederkehr, *UN Radio*, 11 September 2003
- Threats to national security more from internal aggression, *The Press Trust of India*, 12 September 2003
- People in the News: Gloria Landy, *Jewish Voice of Greater Monmouth County*, 12 September 2003
- El Teatro del Oprimido ayuda a ver la realidad con ojos de artista, *UN Radio*, 12 September 2003
- Fr chet te: UN, Strong Civil Society Needed More than Ever at This Crucial Period, *UN Weekly Newsletter*, 13–19 September 2003
- Interview: Adrienne Alexanian, *Armenian Radio*, 14 September 2003
- ONGs: Augusto Boal traz   ONU mensagem do Teatro do Oprimido, *UN Radio*, 15 September 2003
- ONG de Estados Unidos ayuda a comunidades latinoamericanas a salir de la pobreza, *UN Radio*, 16 September 2003
- Armenian Blockade Focus of Diocese-Sponsored United Nations Workshop, *The Armenian Reporter International*, 20 September 2003; *The Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, 20 September 2003
- 56th Annual NGO Conference, 21 September 2003, *Ukrainian Weekly*
- 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference & Interview: Olga Smyrnova, *Natsionalna Trybuna*, 21 September 2003
- Interview: Ole Henrik Magga, *ONRK Finnmark*, 23 September 2003; *S ndagsavisen–Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) Radio*, 26 September 2003; *NRK Sami Radio*, September 2003
- Trustees participate in U.N. Conference, *Assembly this Week*, 26 September 2003
- AIDS, malaria and TB greatest threats to human security, officials say at UN, *AIDS Weekly*, 29 September 2003; *Health & Medicine Week*, 29 September 2003; *Malaria Week*, 29 September, 2003; *Tuberculosis Week*, 29 September 2003; *TB & Outbreaks Week*, 30 September 2003; *BioTech Week*, 1 October 2003; *Vaccine Weekly*, 1 October 2003; *Medical Letter on the CDC & FDA*, 5 October 2003
- Interview: Olga Smyrnova, *Brama – Gateway Ukraine*, September 2003
- Models that Work: Business Education Partnerships in Developing Countries, *Armenian International Women's Association (Aiwa) online*, September 2003
- As Kofi Annan tries to dilute U.S. power at the UN, some of his key allies are not even nations, *World Magazine*, 4 October 2003
- 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, *Meest* (Ukrainian weekly), 9 October 2003
- Journalist Florence Avakian on United Nations Panel, *The Armenian Reporter International*, 11 October 2003
- A Reindeer Herder in Norway Works to Help Indigenous People, *Scholastic News*, October 2003
- 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations, Women's Federation for World Peace International's United Nations Office Newsletter, Fall 2003
- Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations, *United States Servas Newsletter*, Autumn 2003
- Annual DPI/NGO Conference Holds First Webcast, *UN Chronicle*, December 2003 (scheduled publication date)
- Feature: Indigenous Peoples' Issues (including interviews with Ole Henrik Magga and Olivia Martin), *UN Chronicle*, December 2003 (scheduled publication date)
- Interview: Kingsley Moghalu of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, *Africa Recovery*, December 2003 (scheduled publication date)
- Interview: Mal Johnson, Forum for Women in Development's (Fokus) *Kyinner Sammen magazine*, December 2003 (scheduled publication date)

Official United Nations Press Releases

Press Briefing by Panel on UN-Civil Society Relations, 8 September 2003

NGO Press Briefing on Global AIDS Fund, 9 September 2003

NGO Press Briefing on Human Security, 10 September 2003

Annual DPI/NGO Conference on 'Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations' to be held from 8 to 10 September (Press Release NGO/514 PI/1496)

DPI/NGO Conference to be Webcast around the Globe for the First Time (Press Release NGO/516 PI/1497)

Daily Press Conference Schedule Announced for DPI/NGO Conference (Note No. 5805)

Fifty-Sixth Annual DPI/NGO Conference Opens at Headquarters, Dedicated to Memory of those Lost in Baghdad Attack (Press Release NGO/517 PI/1499)

Aim of Millennium Development Goals is to Enable People to Live in Dignity, Safety, General Assembly President Tells NGO Conference (Press Release GA/SM/328 MGP/519 PI/1501)

NGO Conference Focuses on Education for Peace, Issues Concerning Oppression, Empowerment (Press Release NGO/520 PI/1502)

Fifty-Sixth DPI/NGO Conference Concludes at Headquarters; Draws Record 2,000 Civil Society Representatives (Press Release NGO/521 PI/1504)

Annex 2

Interactive Media Report

For the first time, the plenary sessions of the 56th Annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) "Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations" were webcast through the United Nations homepage, <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection>, and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee website, <http://www.ngodpiexecom.org>, enabling NGO representatives unable to attend the Conference and the broader public worldwide to follow the proceedings. The Interactive Media Subcommittee collaborated closely with the Art Centre College of Design in Pasadena, California to create an interactive site as well as live audio and video feeds. Dan Uitti from the Lion's Club coordinated the site launch and monitoring with website designers Designmatters@Art Center as well as with UNTV and DPI's Internet Technology Section. Graduate students from DePaul University monitored the web cast sessions from Chicago.

This new feature enabled people to access audio and video web casts live through their personal computers. Viewers e-mailed questions to the speakers and participated in a live chat about Conference issues. A dynamic feature of the web cast was an open discussion forum for each plenary session during which NGOs connected globally and shared comments on issues related to human security and dignity.

More than 1,500 visitors from over 25 countries - including, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Netherlands, Pakistan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States – tuned in.

The web site also featured live video links recorded by *UNTV* and *UN Radio*. This historic first web cast was rated a huge success by United Nations staff, NGO representatives and the web cast participants. It also provided an attractive and user-friendly approach for viewing future Conference forums.

The web cast was archived so that plenary sessions could be viewed for future reference. Plans for 2004 will focus on timely and extensive promotion of this feature and arrangements for French and Spanish interpretation of the plenary sessions to be available via the web site.

Annex 3

Participants' Survey Report

Executive Summary

Participants of the 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference said the event was useful for their work in much the same way as last year's Conference and also had some striking improvements thanks to new media. Two sessions were ranked higher than sessions in any of the previous Conferences: *Sustainable Development in the Context of Globalization and A Conversation with Eminent Persons on Global Trends and Strategies*. Online resource use increased significantly. More participants consulted the Executive Committee web site prior to the event and said it was more useful than last year's site. NGO Conference participants found the activities of the Executive Committee useful for their own work. On the whole, participants lauded the Conference for networking opportunities and identifying common problems in particular.

Introduction

1. The DPI/NGO Section, with the assistance of the Evaluation and Communications Research Unit, conducted a survey among the more than 1,800 representatives who attended the 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference. The survey compared respondents' input with baseline data from the 55th Annual Conference.
2. A total of 406 attendees responded to the questionnaire, representing a 23 percent response rate, similar to last year's rate.
3. Both the 2002 and 2003 surveys revealed that on the whole participants found the sessions very useful for their work. They also noted improvements due to increased web site usage, *enhanced networking opportunities and identifying common problems*, and greater familiarity with the Executive Committee's work.

2003 Survey Findings

Accessing information and online resources

4. This year's Conference showed changes in the way participants accessed information, with a shift toward electronic communication use. While mailings were the most widely used source of information, participants consulted the Conference web site 7 per cent more than last year. Twenty per cent of the participants received information via listservs. Consultations of the draft programme prior to the Conference declined by 10 per cent.

Attendance and usefulness of sessions

5. Survey respondents in 2003 reported high attendance rates at the sessions (averaging almost 90 percent), with no variation between attendance at morning and afternoon sessions. By comparison, in 2002 more participants attended morning sessions than afternoon sessions. As opposed to 2002, when a correlation could be drawn between low attendance and sessions' usefulness¹, in 2003 the sessions were both well-attended and received similar usefulness ratings.
6. Overall, in 2003, participants' session usefulness ratings were equivalent to those of the previous year. (See chart on the following page).
7. Most Midday Workshops received high usefulness ratings. An average of 80 percent of participants indicated workshops had been "useful" or "very useful."

¹ Sessions with lower attendance were considered more useful, possibly indicating that discussions with fewer participants were more fruitful.

Session Name	Average Rating of Usefulness*
Educating for a Secure Future	1.59
A Conversation with Eminent Persons on Global Trends and Strategies	1.63
Sustainable Development in the Context of Globalization	1.65
Psychological Aspects of Human Security and Dignity	1.76
Closing Session	1.84
From Oppression to Empowerment	1.87
Opening Session	2.16
Average Rating	1.79 ²

* 1= "very useful" 5= "not useful at all"

Conference Information

8. In line with the overall trend to increase new media, more participants reported using listservs and postings on web sites to disseminate information about the Conference.

NGO Executive Committee and logistics

9. In general, the Conference received more positive feedback in relation to awareness about the NGO Executive Committee and its role in organizing the Conference. There was an increase of over 10 percent in familiarity with the year-round work of the Executive Committee. When compared to 2002, over 20 percent more respondents said the delivery of pre-conference information on the Reception/Midday Workshops was "useful" or "very useful." Almost 30 percent more respondents commended the quality of the DPI/NGO Executive Committee's work in organizing the Reception; and 15 percent more lauded its organization of the NGO Midday Workshops.

Overall Usefulness of Conference

10. In general, the 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference received higher ratings than the 55th Annual Conference for its usefulness and practical benefits for the work of NGOs, such as in *networking opportunities*.
11. Similar to last year, both *networking opportunities* and *identifying common problems* proved to be quite beneficial for the majority of participants. On the other hand, fewer participants than last year were enthusiastic about the usefulness of *applying best practices* and *cooperation opportunities with the United Nations*.

Annex 3 was prepared by the Evaluation and Communications Research Unit/DPI.

² Average rating of sessions' usefulness for 2002 was 1.75.