

CLOSING COMMENTS – DPI/NGO CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 8-9-10,2004

As we come to the end of our three days together, I want to thank our Speakers, and the NGO representatives present from all five regions of the world. I understand that 1500 people participated in the Midday Workshop and in the Networking meetings. Your feedback in Panel 5 has enhanced and enriched the conference. We want to salute the DePaul University Rapporteurs and Pat Sczerbo for their dedication as recorders of the Workshops.

Having engaged with the five regions, Arab countries, Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe, we have deepened our global citizenship. I can't avoid saying that the Planning Committee invited women speakers because women traditionally care about humanitarian goals. We have heard from women that we have to change the power relationships, i.e. put women in positions as leaders of the MDG Campaign (so that will not be applying band-aids). We have added youth to women and we have found dynamite.

Regarding the importance of Goal 8, we understand that the market economy cannot eradicate poverty because the billion extremely poor people are too poor to participate in the competitive market. We need to give help, not sell it! I have thought of the MDGs as humanitarian goals; they are, but economic policy is at the heart of their achievement. We have seen that security depends on development and conversely, development depends on security.

Finally, it's our job! Each one here has to make a serious commitment to work for the achievement of the Goals. Please take this passion and energy home so that we too may "abide to relieve the misery of the world".