



**Backgrounder**  
**58<sup>th</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference**  
**Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal**

**United Nations, New York, 7 – 9 September 2005**

This year's Conference of the 3,000 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) associated with the United Nations will take place from 7 – 9 September at the United Nations in New York. The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference, entitled *Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal*, will provide the forum for a dynamic and diverse gathering of civil society representatives in the week preceding the September Summit of world leaders. More than 2,500 NGO representatives and other civil society partners are expected to underscore their support for the work of the Organization in its 60<sup>th</sup> year, especially its efforts to eradicate poverty, promote human rights and enhance collective human security through multilateral cooperation and deeper partnerships with civil society.

The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference is organized in partnership between the United Nations Department of Public Information and its associated NGOs, with the participation of the NGOs in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), many of whom are represented by the Conference of NGOs (CONGO). A range of other civil society organizations are being invited to participate in what will be the largest gathering of civil society actors immediately prior to the September Summit (14 – 16 September).

This gathering will be an interactive, activist Conference, born of a determination to fully implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It will be an opportunity for NGOs to present their expectations for the outcomes of the Millennium+5 Summit, which is looked to as a potentially pivotal event in the process of implementation of the MDGs and revitalization of the United Nations. It will underscore their specific commitments to the MDG process to 2015 and beyond.

The Conference draws its agenda from the Secretary-General's report *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All*, which outlines the agenda for the September Summit. The agenda revolves around three inextricable goals: the promotion of peace and security, development and human rights. The agenda calls for action to strengthen the United Nations to meet these goals through renewal and reforms that are widely supported by the international community and civil society. The report cites key problems and reforms to be tackled through multilateral cooperation at the international, regional, national and local levels.

### **General Assembly Hearings and the M+5 NGO Network**

In January, NGOs represented by the NGO/DPI Executive Committee and CONGO joined forces to form the M+5 NGO Network, a broad-based working group that is monitoring civil society recommendations to the Millennium Summit during the official UN meetings that are taking place during 2005. Key among these meetings are the General Assembly Informal Hearings with Civil Society on 23 - 24 June. As requested by the President of the General Assembly, Member States will consult with civil society organizations and private sector representatives regarding their views on the possible outcomes of the September. These hearings will serve to inform both the Millennium Summit and the DPI/NGO Conference.

The M+5 NGO Network is compiling a report on the views of civil society organizations which is expected to be presented at the General Assembly Civil Society Hearings in June. This report will be considered at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference. It will be posted in advance on the interactive Conference web site: [www.dpingoconference.org](http://www.dpingoconference.org) In this regard, the General Assembly Hearings serve as a preparatory meeting for the Conference as well as the Summit.

### **Conference Plenary Sessions and NGO Interactive Workshops**

Throughout the three-day Conference, participants will have multiple opportunities to dialogue with a variety of stakeholders to voice their views, expand their networks and interact with Member States on the eve of the Summit. In addition to seven plenary sessions, there will be 30 Midday NGO Interactive Workshops featuring the participation of civil society, United Nations and government representatives. The President of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly has been asked to oversee an interactive dialogue between representatives of Member States, parliamentarians and civil society participants on the final day of the Conference, 9 September.

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For further information and queries regarding the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference, including the draft programme, contact: [dpingo@un.org](mailto:dpingo@un.org) or visit the DPI/NGO Section web site: [www.un.org/dpi/ngosection](http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection)

Queries may also be addressed to Sasa Gorisek, Information Officer, NGO Section, Department of Public Information, by phone: (212) 963-1859, or by e-mail: [gorisek@un.org](mailto:gorisek@un.org)

For more information on the Millennium+5 Summit, see:  
<http://www.un.org/ga/59/>, <http://www.ngocongo.org/mdg.htm>,  
<http://www.un-ngls.org/MDG>, or <http://www.undp.org/mdg>

For Conference registration information, contact:  
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Note: Registration is limited to NGOs working with the United Nations.