



DPI/NGO LINK

NGO Section, United Nations Department of Public Information 13 October 2005

This week's NGO Briefing:

Thursday, 13 October

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium

10:00 a.m.

Video: **Microfinance In Their Own Voices** UNCDF

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Panel discussion: **The Role of Microfinance in Reaching the Poorest of the Poor**

Held in observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, this briefing will focus on microfinance as an effective tool in achieving the MDGs and contributing to the reduction of poverty around the world.

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

Richard Weingarten, Executive Director, United Nations Capital Development Fund

Sharmi Sobhan, Executive Director, Fonkoze USA

Elias Hannema, Visiting Professor, EU PHARE Programme

11:30 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Presentation: **CyberSchoolBus website**

UN Highlights

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty aims to highlight that Goal 1 of the MDGs, which seeks to halve the number of people living in poverty by 2015, can only be achieved through joint efforts. The Day tries to raise awareness of the importance of eradicating poverty which may serve as the basis for the achievement of all the other MDGs. Therefore the theme this year is "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals – empowering the poorest of the poor".

The Message of the Secretary-General will be issued on 17 October 2005.

On 10 October the Secretary-General addressed The Microfinance Symposium of experts in Geneva. He said that with access to microfinance people will be able to break the "vicious cycle of poverty and vulnerability." In his speech to the participants of the Symposium he said: "Of course, much more than microfinance is needed to eradicate poverty and hunger. Sound macroeconomic policy. Good governance. Strategies to develop rural areas and the industrial sector. And of course, good regulatory systems that create the proper incentives for businesses. Investments in classrooms, clinics and human capital. These are among

essential elements in any national strategy for defeating poverty. International support is crucial: more and better aid; more debt relief; and a trade regime that is open, fair, and truly gives the poor a chance. Only with such a sustained global partnership will poor people have a proper chance to lift themselves out of poverty."

The International Year of Microcredit 2005 seeks to promote the contribution of microfinance and microcredit to achieving the MDGs, to raise awareness of microfinance and to build inclusive financial sectors.

"The International Forum to Build Inclusive Financial Sectors" to be held 7-8 November 2005 at the United Nations Headquarters will be the closing event of the International Year of Microcredit 2005. It will bring together representatives from more than 100 countries that contributed to the success of the Year. The forum will look into how to increase access to finance and thereby reduce poverty. The goal of the forum is to adopt an action plan for building inclusive financial sectors and thus contribute to the achievement of the MDGs.

As a follow-up to the Year the 60th General Assembly will present a general strategy to uphold the momentum for the 10-year period after 2005.

For further information on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, please visit:

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/poverty/poverty_link3.htm

For information on the International Year of Microcredit 2005, please visit: <http://www.yearofmicrocredit.org>

For information on microfinance in general, please visit: www.uncdf.org

Preview of next week's briefing

The NGO briefing scheduled for 20 October will look into how to **preserve outer space for peaceful uses**. Featured speakers will include Sergio Camacho, Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, David Wright and Laura Grego, Union of Concerned Scientists.

Briefings are held in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. UN videos relevant to the briefing theme are usually screened at 10:00 a.m. on the morning of the Briefing

For Briefing information, updates to the Briefing calendar and to obtain a copy of a Briefing on audiocassette, please call the DPI/NGO Information Line: (212) 963-7232 or visit the DPI/NGO website: www.un.org/dpi/ngosection

To receive our monthly *Calendar* and the weekly *DPI/NGO Link* newsletter electronically, please e-mail dpingo@un.org.

For information regarding the 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, visit www.undpingoconference.org

Recent UN Information Materials

As of October 13, 2005

As of January 2002, the NGO Resource Centre no longer displays official UN documents (resolutions of General Assembly, ECOSOC documents, etc.) in hard copy. All official documents are now available upon request from NGO Resource Centre staff. To eliminate waste and improve availability of all UN documents, we have converted to the mostly paperless, electronic data retrieval system called ODS (Official Documents System). All staff members of the Resource Centre have received appropriate training and are able to assist NGO representatives in retrieving documents. Instructions on the use of ODS (including printing the documents in question) are also available. Requests for specific UN documents in hard copy may be submitted to the NGO Resource Centre staff. Daily Highlights and select press releases will continue to be available in hard copy at the NGO Resource Centre.

DOCUMENTS

General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General

Training and research — United Nations Institute for Training and Research. ([A/60/304](#))

Report of the Secretary-General Sustainable development in mountain regions. ([A/60/309](#))

Note by the Secretary-General

Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms .. Civil and political rights, including the questions of independence of the judiciary, administration of justice, impunity. ([A/60/321](#))

Note by the Secretary-General

Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons. ([A/60/338](#))

Third Committee

One-Power draft resolution.

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family. Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond. ([A/C.3/60/L.6](#))

19- Power draft resolution.

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, disabled persons and the family. Follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers. ([A/C.3/60/L.7](#))

Security Council

Security Council Documents

Letter dated 8 August 2005 from the Acting Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council. ([S/2005/516](#))

ECOSOC

Report of the Economic and Social Council for 2005 ([A/60/3](#))