

**Twenty-Seventh
Planning Committee Meeting
59^h Annual DPI/NGO Conference (6-8 September 2006)
Thursday, 03 August 2006
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room B**

Minutes

1. Pre-Meeting Comments
 - a. It was noted that the Chairwoman would be slightly late.
 - b. A copy of a recent press conference was distributed, regarding a commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the World Federation of United Nations Associations.
 - c. There was a comment regarding youth involvement in the conference. The commenter objected to a letter the Chairwoman had sent out, regarding 1/3 youth participation and youth involvement at each panel and roundtable discussion. The commenter said that, given the forthcoming youth conference in August, these goals were not necessary. Moreover, she expressed frustration and discontent that these goals had not been voted on.
 - (i) The chairman said that this would need to be addressed and resolved; however he postponed the discussion until a more appropriate time.
2. Adoption of agenda
 - a. The agenda was adopted.
3. Adoption of the minutes
 - a. Adoption of the minutes was postponed until the arrival of the chairwoman.
4. Discussion of Plenary and Roundtable themes
 - a. The chairman said this issue had been resolved, and moved on.
5. Subcommittee Reports:
 - a. Networking
 - (i) It was noted that Thursday and Friday's networking events would be held in studio 4.
 - (ii) There was some concern and discussion regarding the potential conference participation of a representative from a networking organization. The chairwoman reported that she had been in touch with the representative, and explained to her that the conference was about NGOs, and not private organizations.
 1. The chairwoman said that they had raised the issue because there is a host of organizations and individuals emerging in the world scene, who intend to exploit activists and NGOs, etc.
 - (iii) The committee reported that one of their members had started a blog:
www.global-network.blogspot.com
www.millenniumdevelopmentgoalsblog.com.
 1. The committee reported that there would be rules and regulations as to what would and would not be posted on the blog.
 - a. It was noted that these would be put into the future minutes.

- b. Multigenerational
 - (i) The committee reported that they had finalized speakers for their workshop and had been working on their bio's. They had also distributed more copies of their survey.
- c. Trouble Shooting
 - (i) There was nothing to report, although the committee noted the concerns regarding youth participation.
- d. Midday Workshops
 - (i) The committee reported that all of the midday workshop proposal submitters had been notified as to acceptance or declination. The committee had also finished planning rooms for each workshop. They reported that they were currently in process of editing the workshops, and the DPI requested clarification of this. The committee noted that they would send out an update once this work was finished. The titles, times/dates and descriptions of each workshop would go on the website once determined.
 - (ii) There will be 31 workshops and 2 performance oriented workshops.
 - (iii) The committee introduced a number of their interns. They also announced that there would be a training for these interns, including how to write reports on the workshops. Further, committee members would be partnered with interns.
 - 1. It was noted that the training would be based on last year's summary. It would be open to anyone.
- e. Events and Fund raising
 - (i) The committee reported that they had two possible contenders for funding. They noted that they would probably have to do an insert page. It was noted that there had been a lot of anti-UN sentiments among possible funding sources, which proved to be a serious barrier to fund raising.
 - (ii) There was a comment that a written guideline for fund raising would help, as there were many planning committee members with contacts that were not being utilized.
 - 1. It was noted that these guidelines had been passed around the previous year, but did not reach many members of the committee. There was some discussion regarding these guidelines.
 - a. There was a request that these guidelines be re-distributed.
 - 2. There was a request that, should anyone know any potential funding sources, to direct those sources to the events committee.
 - 3. There was a comment that fundraising should be the responsibility of the Executive Committee. There was considerable discussion regarding who could raise funds, and who should.
 - a. The chairman said that nobody from the executive committee would turn anyone down who brings them funds. He encouraged members of the planning committee to seek out funds and direct sources to the events committee and the executive committee.
 - 4. The committee noted that the following Monday would be the last day to make a donation. They reminded members to register for the reception.
 - (iii) The committee confirmed that the films on child exploitation would be shown the Friday of the conference.

- (iv) There was a report that 6 speakers had requested funding, including two from the US. Some of these have said that they would not be able to come without financing.
 - f. Media
 - (i) The committee reported that the Light Millennium website had various conference-related content, including a series of interviews. They recommended that the planning committee visit the site, and check out its content. <http://www.lightmillennium.org/>
 - 1. There was a comment that youths involved in the conference would be interviewed and put on the website.
 - (ii) Regarding the student journalist project, the committee reported that they had a list of 500 or more colleges, universities and grad schools, to which they had sent out information on this initiative.
 - (iii) The committee invited the planning committee to recommend schools and/or individual students for this press-corps initiative.
 - 1. The chairwoman said that, unless a student has documentation from a certain school, stating that they are associated with the school publication, (ie a “stringer”) that there would be cause for concern. She said that the conference would be opened up greater than its capacity without these formal credentials.
 - 2. The chairwoman requested that the list of schools be put into the minutes.
 - 3. There was a concern that only US and European editors would come, if “stringers” were not allowed.
 - 4. The chairwoman requested a copy of the email the media committee had sent out to the schools.
 - g. Internet
 - (i) The committee reported that the Google AdWord program had been activated. It was noted that this in-kind donation was worth about \$10,000 per month. Further, it was noted that hits to the website had doubled since the AdWord became active.
 - h. Resource Centre Support
 - (i) The committee reported that there were 1825 registered participants, representing 504 NGOs, and 368 youth. 62 countries were represented. Participants ranged as follows: 177 from Africa; 223 from Asia/Pacific; 46 from Eastern Europe; 25 from Mid-East and Arab nations; 53 from Latin America; 907 from North America and Caribbean; and 309 from Western Europe. 28 volunteers had signed up for registration, although there were 10 time slots yet to be filled. The committee was looking for more volunteers. They had 6 volunteers signed up for youth table. They were working on setting up orientation for youth volunteers.
- 6. Recommendation of speakers
 - a. A representative from DPI reported that there were certain areas in the program that could use other people, and that there had been little representation from the Caribbean. Moreover, there would be problems (re: insufficient number of speakers) if some speakers who had been invited declined. The representative said that she had taken the liberty to invite competent and pro-bono speakers to fill these gaps, and reviewed the changes in the program with the committee.
- 7. Other business
 - a. A list of planning committee members was passed around. There was considerable discussion regarding this list, and its content. It was noted that the list would have to be completed by the following day, or it would not be in the program.

- b. There was a suggestion that increasing the number of participants per NGO be put on the agenda for the next open meeting.
 - (i) There was some discussion regarding the function and responsibility of co-chairs, as representatives.
 - (ii) It was agreed that the following meeting would be an open meeting, in light of the disagreement among committee members regarding sub-committee co-chair representation.
- c. It was noted that this time in past years, there had been roughly 2000-2200 registrants.
- d. The chairwoman noted that she had met with the ambassador of Japan, who had been meeting with various members of the executive committee and DPI, to discuss the participation of a Japanese foreign minister as a speaker. The chairwoman noted that it appeared to be more a political issue, than an issue of actual concern and passion for the conference issues. The chairwoman reported that she was not in a position to make the decision, and further that the conference was not geared toward members of government or issues of political and diplomatic prestige and clout, or money, but rather that it was meant to serve as a vehicle for discussion of specific examples of practices and policies toward sustainability, human security and partnership that work and do not work, between NGOs and the UN.
 - (i) It was noted that Japan had been very interested in human security, and that we should encourage them to participate in the conference.
 - (ii) There was some confusion regarding where the official would speak in the program. The chairman reported that the official was intent on speaking at the opening, despite having been invited to various roundtables. The problem had to do with status issues, (having a deputy minister speaking at the same event as heads of state) and an open spot at the opening.
 - (iii) The chairwoman noted the urgency of the decision, as the program had to go to print by the following week.
 - (iv) There was some concern regarding allowing the official to speak in the first place, and setting dangerous precedent for the future.
 - 1. It was clarified that this process had begun as a misunderstanding, and needed to be resolved. The Japanese government had not realized that this was a mistake, and became intent on having a representative at the conference.
 - (v) There was a comment that governments should be more involved.
 - (vi) The chairwoman clarified that the committee had to decide where to invite him.
 - 1. It was suggested that the official be offered to speak at a specific roundtable, and if there is an open space at the opening, that he be granted that space. It was clarified that he could not have both.
 - a. A copy of this invitation letter would be put in the minutes.
 - b. There was a vote on the matter: unanimous approval.

8. Next meeting

- a. -Thursday, 10 August 2006