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MEDIA ADVISORY

From Reaction to Prevention: Civil Society Forging Partnerships to Prevent Conflict and Build Peace Global Conference - July 19- 21, 2005

What: Hundreds of civil society activists will gather at the United Nations in New York next week to launch a new international movement to prevent armed conflict. The meeting will also call on governments to work more closely, and consistently, with civil society at the international, regional and local levels. The conference is organized by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) in partnership with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs.

Who: Keynote speakers will include:

- **President Gusmao** of Timor-Leste
- Nobel Peace Prize-winner **Jodi Williams**
- UN Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs **Ibrahim A. Gambari**
- **Jan Eliasson**, Swedish Ambassador to US and former Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, and President-elect of the UN general Assembly
- Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator **Jan Egeland**
- **Civil society leaders from 15 regions** such as **Emanuel Bombande** of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (Ghana/Nigeria), **Tatjana Popovic**, Nansen Dialogue Network (Serbia) and **Augusto N. Miclat Jr.**, Initiatives for International Dialog (Philippines).
- The conference will feature over 30 working groups daily, and numerous side events.

Why: This is a culmination of a three-year process that began in 2002 when UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged civil society to meet and define its position on conflict prevention. The focus of the conference is to encourage governments and international organizations to work more closely with civil society. There will also be discussions on reform proposals contained in "In Larger Freedom," including a new peace-building commission at the UN. GPPAC is organized into 15 regions, each of which is led by a leading NGO, or "regional focal point." These have been drawn together into a single agenda, *Global Action Agenda* which will be presented during the Opening Plenary on *Tuesday, July 19*. The full agenda of the 3-day conference is available at <http://www.global-conference.net>.

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