



DPI/NGO LINK

NGO Section, United Nations Department of Public Information 27 October 2005

This week's NGO Briefing:

Thursday, 27 October

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

Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Video: *UNTV World Chronicle*, Interview with Stephen Lewis, United Nations Special Envoy-HIV/AIDS in Africa

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Panel discussion: *Humanitarian Situation in Zimbabwe*

The briefing will look into the current humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe focusing on UN, government and NGO efforts to address the humanitarian and socio-economic hardships the people of Zimbabwe are faced with today.

Speakers:

Meshack Kitchen, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations

Steve O'Malley, Officer-in-Charge, Africa I Section, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Iain Levine, Program Director, Human Rights Watch

Ruth Kahurananga, Child Rights Advisor, World Vision International

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Professor Sitaraman: Higher Education in India

A live webcast of this event will be available at www.un.org/dpi/ngosection and/or www.un.org/webcast

UN Highlights

The Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission to Zimbabwe released on 28 July 2005 examining the consequences of *Operation Restore Order* stresses the need to take measures to bring those responsible to account and reparations to be made to those who have lost their property and livelihoods as a result of the "crash" operation. It also highlights that confidence-building measures were needed to restart the dialogue between the Government of Zimbabwe and civil society. The Report points out that the humanitarian consequences of the Operation to clean up cities in Zimbabwe were enormous as it would take several years until the country's society fully recovers. As Zimbabwe is not a country in war and has a relatively well maintained infrastructure, humanitarian relief efforts need to contribute to the long-term recovery and reconstruction. The Report provides recommendations for both, the Government of Zimbabwe as well as the United Nations and the international community. All of the recommendations call on the international

community to cooperate with and assist the Government of Zimbabwe in resolving the humanitarian crisis in the country and to promote real internal dialogue among all stakeholders.

According to the Report, "*Operation Restore Order* has to be understood within the broader context of the urbanization crisis in Africa. It is recommended that the international community draws lessons from the Zimbabwe crisis for the entire African continent and actively supports the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. It makes a clarion call to the international community to realize that without a more concerted approach to promote urban environmental sustainability (...) the other countries in Africa could well experience another *Operation Restore Order* sooner or later."

Like many of its neighbours in sub-Saharan Africa, Zimbabwe has also been affected by HIV/AIDS. However, according to the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) press statement on 10 October, preliminary data show that the number of people affected by HIV/AIDS had declined in Zimbabwe in the last five years. UNAIDS highlighted that this trend was encouraging, however, it was important to focus on ensuring its sustainability. The UNAIDS review of the HIV/AIDS situation in Zimbabwe will be published in the beginning of December.

Preview of next week's briefing

The NGO briefing scheduled for 3 November to be held in observance of the International Year for Sport and Physical Education will look into the role of sports in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and promoting peace. To be invited speakers of the briefing include H.E. Ali Hachani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations; Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sports for Development and Peace; and Donna de Varona, two time Olympic Gold Medalist in Swimming, Chair, Board of Stewards of the Women's Sports Foundation.

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

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