

“WE WILL SPARE NO EFFORT”

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A Civil Society Call to Action for the Five Year Review of the
UN Millennium Summit and the Millennium Development Goals



June 2005

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A Joint Initiative of



The NGO/DPI
Executive Committee



The Conference of NGOs
in Consultative Relations
with the United Nations

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This report would not be possible without the contributions of hundreds of civil society organizations. On the back cover of this report is a listing of the many groups who participated in our forums and consultations over the past year.¹

¹ Note that participation does not imply endorsement or approval of any of the recommendations contained in this report.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE OF NGOS IN CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (CONGO)

The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations is an independent, international, not-for-profit membership association of non-governmental organizations that facilitates the participation of NGOs in United Nations debates and decisions. Since its founding in 1948, CONGO has worked to ensure that NGO voices are heard throughout the international arena. CONGO's membership comprises national, regional and international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as well as NGOs associated with the United Nations system but not holding consultative status. Members represent a vital range of interests, including human rights, gender, peace and disarmament, social justice, governance, environment and sustainable development. See <http://www.ngocongo.org> for more information.

ABOUT THE NGO/DPI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations Associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (NGO/DPI Executive Committee) acts as a liaison between the NGO community and DPI in connection with the provision of services, the production of materials, the use of UN facilities and all other matters that meet the information-related needs of NGOs associated with the UN. The NGO/DPI Executive Committee is a service organization that helps UN-associated NGOs make effective use of the available information and material to increase knowledge about, and public understanding of, the UN purpose, structure, policies, actions and programmes. See <http://www.ngodpiexecom.org> for more information.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Millennium+5 NGO Network conducted a series of consultations with various communities of civil society organizations over the course of 2005, collecting the views of hundreds of organizations on the main issues coming before the General Assembly this year. The following points are what we have found in our consultations with civil society to be the main messages, proposals and ideas that they wish to be reflected in the 2005 High Level Segment of the General Assembly. We urge member states to consider as a matter of priority these concerns:

- **A Holistic Vision of Development, Peace and Security and Human Rights.** Civil society organizations support the Secretary-General's call for a holistic "package" of measures to be taken by governments to address the interconnected challenges related to sustainable development, human rights, peace and security.
- **Gender Justice and Equality as a Priority.** The gender perspective should be applied comprehensively to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals. Women should be accorded a greater role in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the MDGs.
- **Fair Trade, Debt Relief, and Increased Development Aid.** Civil society strongly supports debt relief for the most highly indebted countries, as well as an increase in Official Development Assistance from current levels to 0.7% of gross national product, as supported by numerous bodies. In addition, civil society draws attention to the root causes of inequity in the global trading system which make it difficult for developing countries to gain entry into developed country markets.
- **Linkage between Funds for Development and Military Spending.** Civil society emphasizes the imbalance between funds dedicated to military expenditure and those directed to development. Specific objectives and targets should be developed linking military spending to development funding, in both developed and developing countries.
- **Responsibility to Protect / Human-centered Security.** Civil society organizations welcomed the Secretary-General's support for the "Responsibility to Protect" principle. They noted that in the face of massive violations of human rights, the international community has a responsibility to protect people from genocide, mass rape and other human rights violations.
- **The Human-Rights Based Approach to Development.** Whether it be pertaining to poverty eradication, gender justice, children's rights, indigenous peoples, or the right to clean water, civil society groups as a whole reaffirmed their commitment to the human rights-based approach to development and to the United Nations work across the system.
- **The "Commitment Gap."** Civil society observes that while governments might agree to various treaties, conventions and plans of action, they are often behind in the actual implementation of those commitments. In order to address this "commitment gap," global monitoring bodies should be strengthened and supported.
- **Civil Society Participation in the UN General Assembly.** The time is ripe at the 2005 General Assembly for NGOs to be allowed to formally attend the six main committees of the UN General Assembly. It is urged that the important proposals contained in the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations–Civil Society Relations be acknowledged and debated at the General Assembly as soon as possible.

Our vision is of a world that is human-centered and genuinely democratic, where all human beings are full participants and determine their own destinies. In our vision we are one human family, in all our diversity, living on one common homeland and sharing a just, sustainable and peaceful world, guided by universal principles of democracy, equality, inclusion, voluntarism, non-discrimination and participation by all persons, men and women, young and old, regardless of race, faith, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity or nationality. It is a world where peace and human security, as envisioned in the principles of the United Nations Charter, replace armaments, violent conflict and wars. It is a world where everyone lives in a clean environment with a fair distribution of the earth’s resources. Our vision includes a special role for the dynamism of young people and the experience of the elderly and reaffirms the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural.

☞ “Millennium NGO Forum Declaration and Agenda for Action: Strengthening the United Nations for the 21st Century” May 2000



June 2005

On behalf of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) and the NGO/-DPI Executive Committee, it is with great pleasure that we submit to you this report “We Will Spare No Effort: A Civil Society’s Call to Action for the Five Year Review of the Millennium Summit and the Millennium Development Goals.” This document is the culmination of more than a year of fruitful collaboration between CONGO and the NGO/-DPI Executive Committee, an initiative that we hope will encourage a much richer and ongoing level of cooperation of many civil society groups at the United Nations.

The recommendations and proposals contained in this report demonstrate the tremendous commitment, creativity, strength and diversity of civil society engaged with the United Nations. In partnership with governments and other stakeholders, civil society has shown its strong desire to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to surpass them.

We look very much forward to the June hearings with the General Assembly and hope that this is just the start of a stronger relationship with the United Nations.

It is with great appreciation to all those who contributed that we submit this report, and we hope that you will give it your careful consideration.

Renata Bloem
President
CONGO

Joan Levy
Chair
NGO DPI Executive Committee

“WE WILL SPARE NO EFFORT”

**A CIVIL SOCIETY CALL TO ACTION FOR THE FIVE YEAR REVIEW OF
THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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INTRODUCTION

We begin this report with the vision expressed so well by the participants of the Millennium NGO Forum in 2000:

Our vision is of a world that is human-centered and genuinely democratic, where all human beings are full participants and determine their own destinies. In our vision we are one human family, in all our diversity, living on one common homeland and sharing a just, sustainable and peaceful world, guided by universal principles of democracy, equality, inclusion, voluntarism, non-discrimination and participation by all persons, men and women, young and old, regardless of race, faith, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity or nationality. It is a world where peace and human security, as envisioned in the principles of the United Nations Charter, replace armaments, violent conflict and wars. It is a world where everyone lives in a clean environment with a fair distribution of the earth's resources. Our vision includes a special role for the dynamism of young people and the experience of the elderly and reaffirms the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural.¹

It is in this holistic spirit that we present this report.

ABOUT THE UN MILLENNIUM SUMMIT

In September 2000, 189 UN Member States gathered to agree to a broad set of principles and goals for the United Nations at the beginning of a new millennium; the UN Millennium Declaration. Most notably, governments committed themselves to achieve by 2015 a specific set of development objectives entitled the “Millennium Development Goals.” The eight “MDGs” are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development²

In the closing statement of the Millennium Declaration, governments resolved to “spare no effort to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing all of these priorities: the fight for development for all the peoples of the world, the fight against poverty, ignorance and disease; the fight against injustice; the fight against violence, terror and crime; and the fight against the degradation and destruction of our common home.”³ It is from this line that we draw the title of this report “We Will Spare No Effort.”

In preparation for the Millennium Summit, a Millennium NGO Forum was held from May 22-26, 2000, gathering 1,350 representatives of civil society from around the world to discuss a range of issues confronting the international community. The ambitious conference was notable for being self-organized by civil society,⁴ under the leadership of an NGO steering committee and with the support of

CONGO and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, while also being closely linked to the United Nations. Sitting in the General Assembly Hall with close to 1,500 of our civil society colleagues was a powerful demonstration of how far we have come.

As the main outcome of the Millennium NGO Forum, a joint statement was produced entitled “The Millennium NGO Forum Declaration and Agenda for Action: Strengthening the United Nations for the 21st Century.” The Declaration includes a comprehensive set of recommendations for concerted action, from developing country debt cancellation to nuclear disarmament, to Security Council reform. It is a formidable call to action, with shared responsibility among the United Nations, governments and civil society.

ABOUT THE MILLENNIUM + 5 NGO NETWORK

Five years after the Millennium Summit, civil society again gathered around the themes and concerns raised by the Summit and the Millennium Development Goals.

In May 2004, the two major networks of civil society organizations at the United Nations, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee⁵ and the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations⁶ (CONGO), came together to strategize on how to ensure effective and broad-based civil society input into the United Nations Millennium+5 process. Recognizing 2005 as an important year for the United Nations, as the organization’s sixtieth anniversary, the five year review of the UN Millennium Summit, as well as the ten-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development, it appeared likely that important issues of development, peace and security and UN reform would be on the General Assembly’s agenda.

The problem was that no provision had been made for civil society input into the “Millennium+5” process. For most major United Nations conferences and summits there are typically several rounds of Preparatory Committees (Prepcoms) and regional conferences that take place to prepare for the main conference, giving civil society organizations several opportunities to make their views and proposals known. However the Millennium+5 process had not planned any Prepcoms or regional meetings, with Member State negotiations likely to take place in closed sessions. Civil society organizations felt a real danger of not having their voices heard.

In response to this dismaying situation, CONGO and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee decided to convene the “Millennium+5 NGO Network” with the stated purpose of ensuring substantial and diverse civil society participation in the Millennium+5 process. From May 2004 until publication of this report, regular meetings of the network have brought together NGO representatives to discuss how to ensure the broadest possible civil society participation and to realize this goal.

This joint initiative of CONGO and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee has united the two major, broad-based networks of United Nations affiliated NGOs, whether accredited through the Economic and Social Council⁷ and/or through the Department of Public Information.⁸ CONGO and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee represent hundreds of organizations and networks focusing on all of

the issues on the UN agenda. However, early on in the process, the Millennium+5 NGO Network realized that there were many other civil society actors involved in the Millennium process not represented within CONGO, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee nor even the entire community of UN-affiliated NGOs. It was felt strongly that grassroots organizations, community-based groups, NGOs in the global south, and many others were not aware of what was happening at the UN or how they could play a part.

The Network decided to convene parallel NGO consultations on the Millennium+5 Summit at every major UN Commission meeting from January to June 2005. Thus NGO consultations were held at the UN Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. All of these UN meetings brought together diverse communities of civil society representing a broad range of interests and constituencies. In addition, a number of other inputs were sent to the Network via the internet, widening our reach even further.

In order to further enhance civil society participation, organizations within the Network encouraged the United Nations and Member States to approve open and transparent modalities of participation. On April 15, 2005 the General Assembly approved a resolution calling for “informal interactive hearings to be held on June 23 and 24, 2005 with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.”⁹ Some 200 representatives of civil society and the private sector were invited to participate in the June hearings, which will be chaired by the UN General Assembly President and include representatives of Member States in dialogue with civil society and private sector representatives.

It was decided that these hearings be based around the March 2005 report of the UN Secretary-General on the occasion of the five year anniversary of the Millennium Summit entitled “In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All.”¹⁰ This 62-page report calls for a number of specific measures and reforms organized around the broad clusters of:

- Freedom from Want (Development)
- Freedom from Fear (Peace and Security)
- Freedom to Live in Dignity (Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law)
- and Strengthening the United Nations

The General Assembly will structure their own discussions and resolutions around these four cluster areas. Thus in the Millennium+5 NGO consultations we have sought to focus our colleagues’ input within the context of the Secretary General’s proposals. Embracing the visionary thinking that often emerges from civil society, we have put the emphasis on proposals that member states can implement at this, the sixtieth session of the UN General Assembly.

This report is the culmination of a six-month consultation process. It is divided into five sections. The first addresses issues pertaining to the Secretary-General’s “Freedom from Want” cluster. The second section reports on civil society views on peace and security issues, the “Freedom from Fear” cluster. The third section addresses human rights concerns, the Secretary-General “Freedom to Live in

Dignity” cluster. The fourth section deals essentially with civil society participation at the UN, corresponding to the “Strengthening the United Nations” cluster. The final section draws the overall conclusions together, and makes strong recommendations for action.

Please note that the recommendations and conclusions in this report have not been formally endorsed by the participants of the consultations, the organizations they represent, or by any of the members of the Millennium+5 NGO Network. These observations and recommendations are designed to capture the variety of messages and ideas that were expressed at the consultations, but should not be read as a scientific poll or statistical analysis.

An annex of additional civil society resources includes other reports, statements, and websites relevant to the Millennium+5 process.

We are so very thankful to all those who have contributed to this effort.

FOOTNOTES:

¹ “Millennium NGO Forum Declaration and Agenda for Action: Strengthening the United Nations for the 21st Century” May 2000

² See the Millennium Campaign website for more information at <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org>

³ UN symbol A/RES/55/2, paragraph 29.

⁴ Note that in this report, non-governmental organization (NGO) and civil society organization (CSO) will be used somewhat interchangeably. For one in-depth discussion of the term “civil society” see the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on UN-Civil Society Relations (2004).

⁵ See <http://www.ngodpiexcom.org/>

⁶ See <http://www.ngocongo.org>

⁷ ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31

⁸ ECOSOC Resolution 1297/XLIV

⁹ A/RES/59/291

¹⁰ A/59/2005

I. FREEDOM FROM WANT

As a whole, the civil society organizations that took part in the consultations expressed support for the UN Secretary General’s call to eliminate global poverty. NGOs often described the MDGs as a valuable, yet incomplete, vision of development that needed improvement. The importance of finance for development was recognized and NGOs rallied for concerted government focus on debt cancellation, increased development aid and fair trade. Calling to mind the Secretary-General’s pledge on his accession “to perfect the triangle of development, freedom and peace,” many NGOs spoke of the strong relationship between development, peace and security, human rights and a strengthened United Nations.

Each year I come here – we make our proposals and I don’t see anything being solved. There are women and children dying every day. We don’t have a millennium to solve these problems.

*~ Cathy Thunderbird, Coast Salish Nation,
The Flying Eagle Women’s Fund*

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- “Freedom from want” also means combating exclusion, and providing a real commitment to qualitative development, both in developing and developed countries. To this end, it was mentioned that the participation of marginalized groups, including the poorest, should be ensured, and their voices listened to in the overall international and UN development agenda. References to indigenous peoples, minorities, persons with disabilities, older persons, and youth are missing from the MDGs and this makes them less responsive to their needs.
- Some NGOs highlighted the risk that the focus on aggregate results, rapid development and achieving the greatest good for the greatest number could mean that the particular needs of the most excluded groups will be ignored in the interests of meeting targets on paper. More research and data need to be collected on these groups to better evaluate and address their particular requirements.
- Many speakers indicated that new targets and indicators were needed to increase the Millennium Development Goals’ effectiveness and measure progress toward implementation.
- Civil society echoed the concerns of the Secretary-General in their discussion on the importance of national priorities and strategies to meet the MDGs. It was expressed that governments must pay close attention to the unique needs of their constituencies within their own countries.
- More information about the MDGs should be made available to the public. Governments, the private sector and civil society should work more closely with the media to promote the MDGs at the national level.
- A common concern raised was that civil society wants a greater voice and role in promoting and implementing the Millennium Development Goals. The planning and evaluation of the progress towards the MDGs are activities in which the contributions of civil society are vital.

NGOs have to be responsible to talk to national officials and make sure they are accountable to achieving the MDGs.

≈ Bonnie Berry, Women’s World Federation

FINANCE

- NGOs recognize that effective financing is necessary for the success of the MDGs. Civil society should have greater input with regards to how financing is directed. Closer civil society engagement with government and the private sector is needed to ensure that financing is equitable and effective.
- The importance of developing country debt relief to promote development was a frequent observation.
- Numerous speakers asked governments to fulfill the commitment of allocating 0.7% of gross national product to official development assistance within a short timeline.
- Emphasis was placed on the concept of fair trade. It was noted that the effects of trade on vulnerable groups should be carefully considered when government negotiations take place.

Development cannot be achieved without gender equality and women’s empowerment.

≈ Charlotte Bunch, Center for Women’s Global Leadership

GENDER

- A strong recommendation from the consultations was that a gender perspective be applied comprehensively to all the Millennium Development Goals. Many felt that the MDGs inadequately addressed the needs of women, who are vital towards the achievement of successful development.
- Women demand a greater role in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the MDGs. Women should be included in all these processes to ensure that gender concerns are incorporated in all aspects and at every level of the MDGs. The question was often raised as to how the MDGs could successfully help women without their active participation and input.
- Women need more information on how to engage with the Millennium Development Goals and on how they benefit them.
- Although it is acknowledged that women’s participation is key to achieving all the MDGs, the gender issue is only mentioned in goal three.

Violence against women is not addressed in the MDGs – this is the crucial issue in the context of women’s empowerment.

≈ Bandara Rana, Sancherika Samuhar

- More targets and indicators to measure the progress of women need to be added. Violence against women, health, education, political participation and economic empowerment need to be addressed more closely within the framework of the MDGs.

• The MDGs should be a vehicle for strengthening the commitments made by governments to gender equality and the advancement of women at the Fourth World Conference on Women and through CEDAW.

POVERTY

- Many stressed the urgent need to end poverty. It was noted that the MDGs must aim to benefit all the poor and should not leave behind marginalized

and excluded populations. Ambitious targets to eradicate *all* poverty within the near future should be emphasized.

- NGOs pointed out that governments in developed countries should not forget the needs of the poor in their own countries.
- Some NGOs advocated the view that development and livable wages are human rights.
- The poor must be treated as partners in development by governments and civil society. The need to solicit the input of people living in poverty and facilitate their participation in the implementation of the MDGs was addressed. Consulting with grassroots organizations and using information technology were provided as examples of ways in which the poor can be reached more effectively.

The first MDG is to eradicate poverty, but aims to help only 50% of those affected. How do we explain this to the other 50% that will not be helped?

≈ Vicki Soanes, International Movement ATD

ENVIRONMENT

- NGOs recognize that many environmental problems exert direct negative consequences on development and the MDGs.
- Environmental problems particularly affect indigenous peoples. Governments must be careful not to promote development policies that fail to consider indigenous peoples.
- Some NGOs emphasized that treaties and pacts are necessary to help address trans-border environmental problems, however governments are often slow to implement the existing environmental treaties that they have signed.

Governments should address poverty wherever it exists, not only in poor countries but in rich nations as well.

≈ Uta Stitz, German Association for Public and Private Welfare

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

- It was expressed that many development efforts and reforms need to be undertaken as a comprehensive package for lasting effectiveness. Many NGOs spoke of the strong relationship between development, peace and security, human rights and a strengthened United Nations.
- Many NGOs felt that partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society need to be carefully evaluated. Both the benefits and potential pitfalls of partnerships have to be carefully considered to ensure effectiveness, transparency and equity.
- NGOs urged governments to provide transparent and accountable institutions and equitable legal systems that protect and promote civil society and encourage development.

The reality is that deforestation, pastoralization and resulting desertification are generating hunger and misery upon indigenous peoples in Latin America.

≈ Miguel Ibanez, Quechua Nation, Habitat of Peru

II. FREEDOM FROM FEAR

I've been in the anti-war movement for 40 years – and now I see that the MDGs and the possibilities of getting rid of nuclear weapons are one and the same.

≈ Judy Lerner, Peacelinks

The Secretary-General's call to reduce the prevalence of violent conflict and terrorism in his report was roundly supported by civil society. Many felt strongly that the proposed Peacebuilding Commission is an essential step forward, yet called for an expanded role and mandate to increase its potential effectiveness. Most importantly, NGOs urged Heads of State to recognize the intrinsic

links between development, peace and security.

CIVIL SOCIETY'S VISION OF SECURITY

- NGOs affirmed that conflict and insecurity present direct challenges to development and human rights.

- It was noted that simply increasing the material wealth of people does not necessarily provide freedom from fear or prevent conflict. Avoiding the marginalization and isolation of people in a society allows for stronger collective bonds and a shared identity.

With respect to disarmament, there should be a quid pro quo of how much developing countries spend on arms buildup in relation to how much they spend on development.

≈ Roma Stigervy, CONGO Committee on Sustainable Development

- There was a strong call for governments to consider the disparity between military expenditures and financing for development. Many in civil society felt that direct linkages and targets between military expenditures and development spending should be made.

- The need for statistics to compare the military budgets of developing countries and what they are receiving in official development assistance was recognized by NGOs.

REDUCING THE RISK AND PREVALENCE OF WAR

Strong support was expressed for the Secretary-General's call for a Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Support Office. Some NGOs thought that the Commission should have a larger role than that proposed by the Secretary-General. It should serve to help avert conflicts, and not just address post-conflict situations.

Many in GPPAC are interested in the call for the Peacebuilding Commission. This should have an expanded role, including a preventative role, not only a post-conflict role.

≈ Akira Kawasaki, Peaceboat

- NGOs rallied behind current efforts such as the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict and called for Heads of State to adopt Millennium Peace and Security Goals, similar to the MDGs, that could be adopted either at or before the Millennium+5 Summit.

- Civil society called on member states to acknowledge the crucial role civil society plays in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict.

- NGOs called on governments to cooperate with civil society and use education as a tool to promote disarmament at the national level.

- There was a call for governments and civil society to mobilize youth to campaign for peace and disarmament.
- The importance of Security Council Resolution 1325 on the role of women in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction of democratic institutions was reiterated. NGOs called on member states to implement it.

As you know our country is suffering from war, and because of this we have been deprived of rights, like citizenship certificates, land ownership, and education.

≈ Om Gurung, Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities

ELIMINATING THE TOOLS OF WAR

- NGOs called for the Secretary-General and member states to go beyond arms control and start talking about real disarmament at the Summit.
- Many felt that the issue of nuclear non-proliferation must not overshadow the need for controls of conventional, nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. They agreed with the Secretary-General’s assertion that “progress in both disarmament and non-proliferation is essential and neither should be held hostage to the other.”
- NGOs continue to recognize the dangers from existing nuclear weapons and support the United Nations efforts to halt their further spread. Some called for the nuclear powers to take their weapons off hair-trigger alert and for a verification system to be established.
- NGOs agreed with the Secretary-General’s concerns on transnational terrorism and called on all countries with any kind of nuclear materials to take preventative steps to safeguard against their acquisition by terrorists.

III. FREEDOM TO LIVE IN DIGNITY

In the “Freedom to Live in Dignity” section of his report, the UN Secretary-General calls for specific measures pertaining to human rights, the rule of law and democracy. Civil society organizations strongly support the human rights based approach to development and the importance of democracy at all levels of society.

The MDGs are implicitly embedded in a human rights framework, in terms of legal basis and of conceptual inspiration.

≈ CONGO Statement on MDGs & Human Rights

THE RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

- Whether it be pertaining to poverty eradication, gender justice, children’s rights, indigenous peoples, or the right to clean water, civil society groups as a whole reaffirmed their commitment to the human rights based approach to development and to the United Nations work across the system.
- It was recalled that the denial of basic health, education and nutrition constituted human rights violations. Thus the full and effective protection and enforcement of human rights standards are essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Responsibility to protect should be pursued in accordance with international law and in a consistent manner, as articulated by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty and by criteria advocated by the Secretary-General, consistent with Article 51 of the UN Charter. We note the primary responsibility to prevent, along with the responsibilities to react and to rebuild.

∞ Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict

RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

- Civil society organizations welcomed the Secretary-General’s support for the “Responsibility to Protect” principle. They noted that in the face of massive violations of human rights, the international community has a responsibility to protect victims from genocide, mass rape and other human rights violations. Groups emphasized that it is preferable to focus on the prevention of violent conflict.
- Groups underscored the need to balance human security concerns with state security considerations.
- Several groups noted that states should cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court, as an important instrument in the protection of human rights.

RULE OF LAW & DEMOCRACY

- Groups noted that national governments bear primary responsibility to ensure a society based on the rule of law. Thus, a functioning, democratic government, responsive to its citizens and that partners with civil society, is essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- It was observed by several organizations that while governments might agree to various treaties, conventions, and UN plans of action, they are often slow to act on those commitments. The strengthening and support of global monitoring bodies should address this commitment gap.
- It was noted that the United Nations should improve its cooperation with civil society organizations as an essential vehicle for promoting democracy around the world. Beyond free-and-fair elections and effective government institutions, a vibrant and diverse civil society is crucial for the development of a truly democratic society. Thus any United Nations funds to support democracy building at the national level should include projects spearheaded by civil society organizations.

From the perspective of the South, it is important to bring back an emboldened state if global issues are going to be addressed collectively and in a coordinated manner.

∞ Third World Network

IV. STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS

Just because governments have forgotten about the Cardoso report doesn't mean that NGOs should do the same.

✎ Jeffery Huffines, U.S. Bahá'í Community

Civil society organizations expressed several views on the “Strengthening the United Nations” cluster, particularly related to the role of civil society within the UN system, as well as more far reaching recommendations. NGOs would be very disappointed if the strengthening and democratization of the United Nations was not on the agenda of the 2005 UN General Assembly. A number of civil society coalitions and networks are actively promoting fundamental reform of the UN system, as noted in the Annex of this report.

REFORM IDEAS

As a whole, civil society groups welcomed the overall goal of the UN Secretary-General to enhance the human rights and economic and social arms of the United Nations, and to bring them to a more equal level with the Security Council. Civil society organizations strongly believe that all of these issues are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, and that the United Nations should have a central policy role in all three areas. Some were concerned by reports that many governments only wished to deal with certain aspects of the Secretary-General's proposals, rather than treating them as a holistic “package” of reform measures.

- Many groups expressed support for the reform and strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, which is the main body of the United Nations dealing with economic and development concerns.
- There is no clear “NGO position” on Security Council reform. Some organizations observed that Security Council reform is a contentious and difficult issue, both for governments and NGOs. However this should not prevent action by the United Nations on other reform measures that can be implemented more easily and quickly.
- It was observed that member states often pass resolutions without providing the means for those decisions to be implemented. This creates enormous pressure upon the UN secretariat and other UN bodies to attempt to fulfill those mandates without adequate resources or staffing. It also reduces public confidence in the UN system which appears to create unattainable goals. Thus it was recommended that governments focus on fulfilling their existing promises, and only pass resolutions that they intend to implement.
- Many organizations expressed interest in exploring creative means of bringing into the United Nations the voices of citizens from around the world, from advanced polling techniques to an “internet agora,” to the creation of a “people's assembly” to complement the General Assembly.
- As the UN seeks to enhance the workings of the General Assembly, many organizations noted that civil society groups still lack the formal right to participate in or attend General Assembly sessions or its committees. The time is ripe at the 2005 General Assembly for NGOs to be allowed to attend the six major committees of the UN General Assembly.

We share the concerns of the Secretary-General that the Commission on Human Rights lacks credibility. For years NGOs have been exposing the shortcomings of the UN’s main human rights body, including its inability to address many situations of gross and systematic human rights violations around the world.

≈ Joint statement by 14 Human Rights NGOs to the UN Commission on Human Rights, March 2005

- It was observed that while the UN had commissioned a Panel of Eminent Persons to evaluate the relationship between the UN and civil society, resulting in “The Cardoso Report” and the subsequent proposals presented by the UN Secretary-General in 2004, no substantive action has been taken by governments to implement any of those recommendations. It was urged that these important, visionary proposals be acknowledged and debated at the General Assembly as soon as possible.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Several groups were particularly vocal on the Secretary-General’s proposals for the reform of the human rights body of the United Nations.

- Regardless of how the United Nations chooses to reform its human rights machinery, the NGO community emphasizes the principles of: transparency; independence; measurable achievements and commitments to progress; effective international cooperation and national action; and the importance of mainstreaming and linking human rights with development and security.
- A number of human rights organizations spoke in favor of the Human Rights Council proposal. The possible benefits of the Human Rights Council working on a year-round basis were noted, as this would allow for more consistent follow-up on recommendations, better use of the UN’s monitoring procedures and more effective responses to crises.
- The valuable elements of the existing system should be retained, regardless of any changes implemented. These include the independent human rights monitoring procedures, known as rapporteurs and working groups, and the active participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the human rights body.
- The view was expressed that members of the Commission on Human Rights or the proposed Human Rights Council should demonstrate clear commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, through measures such as the ratification of the major human rights conventions and active compliance with requests for visits by the human rights special procedures.

Governments want NGOs to speak with one voice, but this isn’t possible. We have different input, different issues.

≈ Rosa G. Lizarde, ENLACE/International Facilitating Group for FFD

- The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as the secretariat of the United Nations human rights bodies, should be allocated a larger portion of the UN budget in order to conduct its work.

ENHANCING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Much of the discussions centered on how to ensure a unified voice of civil society within the UN system while also respecting our tremendous diversity. Many groups recalled that there were already existing committees, networks, and working groups that serve to bring together civil society views as a concerted force at

the United Nations. Many of these networks, while having secretariats in the developed world, also have strong constituencies in the Global South.

Suggestions as to how to ensure an effective role for civil society at the United Nations included the following:

- Several organizations noted that governments and the United Nations often expect NGOs to speak with one voice, which given our diversity is neither possible nor desirable. Instead the UN must incorporate civil society participation in ways that recognize our own wide range of views and interests. Several examples were presented, such as the “major groups” model of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Financing for Development process, and the civil society “bureau” and various caucuses interfacing directly with governments at the World Summit on the Information Society.
- It was noted that civil society groups are often called to implement policy that has already been developed, rather than consulted at the initial policy setting stage. This often results in UN projects that are not responsive to the needs of the communities they are intended to help, or that are not sustainable in the long run.
- It was recognized that the NGOs most engaged in UN processes tend to be large, Western-based groups and networks. Thus, more needs to be done by the United Nations to solicit perspectives and proposals from community-based and grassroots organizations, using the internet, regional and thematic consultations, and other means.
- Groups from the global south expressed how difficult it was for them to participate in UN processes. Barriers included visa problems, lack of access to the internet and insufficient funds to travel to UN meetings and conferences. Groups expressed support for a UN Trust Fund to facilitate NGO participation from developing countries, as well as foster capacity building for Southern NGOs, enabling them to raise their concerns and issues at the United Nations.

If we are to achieve the MDGs in the timelines, and the roles of NGOs from our part of the world are not encouraged, then the MDGs will be hard to accomplish.

✎ Pastor Peters Omoragbon, Nurses Across the Borders (Nigeria)

“We Will Spare No Effort”: A Civil Society Call to Action

V. CONCLUSIONS

We have witnessed many milestone dates and promises for change that have been largely unfulfilled, and so we have asked ourselves, what will make 2005 and the Millennium Review Summit different from other such occasions?

Sometimes the best ideas are in the margins.

~ Leslie Wright, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

The contributors to this report are representatives of civil society who dedicate their energy and expertise to help fulfill the humanitarian goals of the United Nations. We have been laboring in this effort before the “Millennium Development Goals,” and our work shall continue beyond 2015. The continuity of our efforts as international civil society however does not imply that we ignore the Millennium promises that stand before us today. Amidst our diversity, we are united in our desire to witness positive changes resulting from these new values and visionary policies, and the will of states to implement this necessary transformation.

This report is a living document. It is a call for respect and shared responsibility on behalf of civil society representatives from around of the globe. We do not claim to speak with one voice, rather we embrace our diversity, and in it we find our strength.

We do not seek to replace the work of governments, and we recognize that the United Nations is fundamentally an inter-governmental institution. However, we also know that our work is indispensable in complementing that of Member States. We support efforts to deepen the transparency and accountability of the UN and are committed to participating in monitoring this process, as well as to accomplishing the same within our own communities. To this end, it is key that dialogue around issues of importance systematically include non-governmental actors.

For this dialogue to be effective, the perception of civil society by many governments must change. Any presumption of antagonism must be substituted by a sincere commitment to engage in constructive interaction. We embrace the General Assembly’s initiative to hold hearings with civil society in preparation for the Millennium Review Summit and hope that this will be a harbinger of increased consultation between member states and civil society.

The Millennium+5 NGO Network is working with established committees and coalitions of NGOs, as well as with individual NGOs worldwide, to create a broad-based and inclusive approach for receiving and communicating relevant input from an ever-evolving international community of organizations. We also intend to provide assistance in identifying civil society voices that need be included and consulted in reference to specific issues as they arise.

This effort demands the cooperation of partners in all regions. We encourage regional networking and ask that selected participants in these hearings of the General Assembly act as focal points when they return home, sharing the information they have gathered broadly with colleagues and constituents.

“We Will Spare No Effort”: A Civil Society Call to Action

Beyond the General Assembly Hearings and the Millennium Review Summit in September, there needs to be a continuing discussion within civil society about how to best ensure effective and consistent participation in UN affairs. This Network and this report has only been one vehicle for communicating the many messages and visions civil society brings. We hope that you will continue to work with us as we “spare no effort” to pursue the vision of a world living in peace, justice and compassion for all of the human family.

OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY RESOURCES

This report is only one of the many contributions that civil society has produced to address the Millennium Review Summit themes. Please see the following resources for further information on each of these areas. This listing is not meant to be exhaustive, but merely indicative of the wealth of expertise, concerns and constituencies represented by civil society.¹

GENERAL FOCUS ON MILLENNIUM SUMMIT AND MDGS

Millennium +5 NGO Network Email Listserv. The Millennium+5 email listserv enables the members of the network to stay in touch with each and receive updates on various Millennium+5 developments. To join the Millennium + 5 Network listserv send an email to millenniumplus5ngonetwork-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

“Millennium NGO Forum Declaration and Agenda for Action: Strengthening the United Nations for the 21st Century” NGO statement from Millennium NGO Forum, May 2000. See <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration.htm>.

Asian Civil Society Forum, Conference and Report. The first Asian Civil Society Forum was held in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2002 and again in November 2004. The ACSF dealt with a wide range of issues pertaining to Asian civil society, from the Millennium Development Goals to human rights and UN reform. Sponsored by CONGO. Go to <http://www.acsf.info> to download the report and get more information.

“Benchmark for the Five-year Review of the Millennium Summit,” Report, 2005. Sponsored by Social Watch, March 2005. See <http://www.socialwatch.org>.

“CONGO Committee for Social Development Comments on the Report of the Secretary General, ‘In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All,’” Statement, April 2005. Download the statement at <http://www.un-ngls.org/UNreform/Sistersofnotredame.doc>.

“Connecting the Global to the Local to Reach the Millennium Development Goals,” Paper, 2004. Sponsored by CONGO. Download the paper at <http://www.ngocongo.org/ngonew/CONGOandMDGs.pdf>.

“CSO Perspectives on the Millennium Development Goals,” Report, 2005. A compilation of viewpoints from Martin Khor of Third World Network, Sunita Narain of Center for Science and Environment, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz of Tebtebba Foundation and Carol Barton of Women’s International Coalition for Economic Justice. To download the report, go to <http://www.undp.org/cso>.

“Indigenous Peoples and the Millennium Development Goals,” Discussion Paper for UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. By Victoria Tauli-Corpuz. Download the complete paper at http://www.tebtebba.org/tebtebba_files/ipr/mdg.html.

Latin American Consultation on the Millennium Development Goals, Conference and Report. This report highlights the results of a regional conference on the MDGs and UN reform held in Santiago, Chile in June 2004. Sponsored by CONGO. See <http://www.ngocongo.org/ngomeet/LAC04>.

MDG Global Watch, NGO. MDG Global Watch is a non-profit organization focusing on the assurance that every country on the globe meets the U.N. Millennium Development Goals. See <http://www.mdg-globalwatch.org>

“Millennium Development Campaigning Toolkit,” Publication. Prepared by CIVICUS. Download the full kit at <http://www.civicus.org/mdg/title.htm>.

“The Millennium Development Goals and the Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger,” Discussion Paper for the Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum, Bangkok, Thailand, October 2003. Download the complete paper at http://www.unescap.org/pdd/CPR/CPR2003/PDD_CPR_INF2.pdf.

“The Millennium Development Goals: a Comparative Performance of Six EU Member States and the EC Aid Programme,” Report, May 2004. Sponsored by Alliance 2015. To download the report go to <http://www.welthungerhilfe.de/WHHEN>.

NGO Responses to “In Larger Freedom,” Website. Compilation by the UN Non-governmental Liaison Service of NGO views on the UN Secretary-General’s Report “In Larger Freedom.” See <http://www.un-ngls.org/sg-report-NGOs-comment.htm>.

“Owning the Loan – Poor Countries and the MDGs,” Report, April 2004. Sponsored by Christian Aid and AFRODAD. Report on how national ownership of the loan process can help poor countries reach the Millennium Development Goals. Download the report at <http://www.afrodad.org/archive/owningtheloan1.pdf>.

“Seeking Accountability on Women’s Rights: Women Debate the Millennium Development Goals,” Report, 2004. Sponsored by the Women’s International Coalition for Economic Justice. See <http://www.wicej.addr.com/mdg>.

“West African Civil Society Statement on the Millennium Development Goals and their Implementation,” Final statement of the West Africa Civil Society Forum on MDGs, Held in Dakar, February 2003. Sponsored by UNDP. See <http://www.undp.org/surf-wa/mdgforum/cso.htm>.

“We the Peoples,” Civil Society Survey. Produced by the World Federation of United Nations Associations and the North-South Institute. The report highlights the results of a global online survey of civil society organizations in more than 100 countries and documents how they are engaging with the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs. To order the report go to <http://www.wfuna.org>.

“Women’s Empowerment, Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals,” Report, 2005. Describes the Millennium Development Goals, their connection to women’s equality and strategies to insure they include a gender perspective. Sponsored by the Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). See <http://www.wedo.org/library.aspx?ResourceID=5>.

“Youth and the Millennium Development Goals: Challenges and Opportunities for Implementation,” Report, November 2004. Sponsored by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Youth and the MDGs. Download the report at <http://www.mdgyouthpaper.org>.

FREEDOM FROM WANT (DEVELOPMENT)

Arab NGO Network for Development, NGO. ANND is an advocacy group that has worked extensively on strengthening and shaping the role of civil society organizations in the Arab countries. ANND has three main programs on development, democracy and globalization and trade. For more information go to <http://www.annd.org>.

Countdown 2015: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for All, NGO campaign. Countdown 2015 is an initiative dedicated to assessing the progress and mapping the future for the key goals of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994. See <http://www.countdown2015.org>.

Global Call to Action Against Poverty, NGO network. The Global Call to Action against Poverty is a worldwide alliance committed to making world leaders live up to their promises, and to making a breakthrough on poverty in 2005. See <http://www.whiteband.org>.

International Movement ATD Fourth World, NGO. International Movement ATD Fourth World is an international NGO that challenges individuals and institutions to join people living in extreme poverty in their daily efforts to move out of poverty. See <http://www.atd-fourthworld.org>.

Jubilee Debt Campaign, NGO campaign. Calls for the complete cancellation of all unpayable poor countries debts. See <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk>.

Southern African Regional Poverty Network, NGO network. The purpose of SARPN is to provide a facility for raising the level and quality of public debate on poverty across the Southern African Development Community. See <http://www.sarpn.org.za>.

Third World Network, NGO network. The Third World Network is an independent non-profit international network of organizations and individuals involved in issues relating to development, the Third World and North- South issues. See <http://www.twinside.org.sg>.

FREEDOM FROM FEAR (PEACE AND SECURITY)

CONGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, NGO network. For more than thirty years, the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security has provided services and facilities to hundreds of citizens' groups concerned with the peace and disarmament activities of the United Nations. See <http://disarm.igc.org>.

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, NGO network. The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict is a world-wide civil society-led process to generate and build a new international consensus on peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict. See <http://www.gppac.org>.

NGO Working Group on the Security Council, NGO network. The Working Group brings together thirty major NGOs for a series of meetings with Council ambassadors. Since the Council's decisions affect nearly all NGO constituencies – in such areas as human rights, humanitarian relief, disarmament, the environment, and the concerns of women and children – the Working Group has a diverse membership. See <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/ngowkgrp>.

FREEDOM TO LIVE IN DIGNITY (HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW)

“Focusing on Human Rights and Gender Justice: Linking the MDGs to CEDAW and the Beijing Platform,” Report, February 2005. Sponsored by WIDE Austria (Network Women In Development Europe). See <http://www.oneworld.at/wide>.

International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), NGO. The International Federation for Human Rights is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to the world-wide defense of human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. Founded in 1922, the FIDH has 141 national affiliates in all regions. See <http://www.fidh.org>.

International Service for Human Rights, NGO. The International Service for Human Rights promotes the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide through the provision of information and training and monitoring, reporting on and promoting human rights discussions and debates. See <http://www.ishr.ch>.

NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court, NGO Coalition. The Coalition for the International Criminal Court is a network of over 2,000 NGOs advocating for a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court. See <http://www.iccnw.org>.

STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS

Global Policy Forum, website and NGO. The Global Policy Forum sponsors the website www.globalpolicy.org, which acts as a central clearinghouse on various UN reform issues, from globalization to Security Council expansion.

ReformtheUN.org, website. To monitor all developments and negotiations, ReformtheUN.org provides updated information on the member states' positions, and the positions of parliamentarians and civil society on UN reform issues. Sponsored by the World Federalist Movement.

World Campaign for the In-depth Reform of the System of International Institutions, Campaign. Launched in 2002, the campaign is intended to promote such reform in order to equip the system of international institutions to help resolve the grave problems that face our world and it is supported by many organizations and individuals from world civil society. Sponsored by UBUNTU. See <http://www.reformcampaign.net>.

World Federation of United Nations Associations, NGO. WFUNA is a network for people who want to become engaged with the critical global issues affecting the United Nations. WFUNA produces a monthly newsletter, *UN Connections*, which provides practical information about the networks shaping relations between the emerging global civil society and the UN. See <http://www.wfuna.org>.

¹ We drew many of these resources from lists assembled by the UN Non-governmental Liaison Service, Choike, the Inter-press Service and others.

Partial List of Organizations that Participated in the Millennium+5 Consultations

American Association of Retired Persons, ABANTU for Development, Academia Mexicana de Derecho Internacional, Action Aid International, Afghan Academy of Hope, African Women and Child, AIWA, Alcadeco A.C., All-China Women's Federation, Alliance for UN Sustainable Development Programs, Anglican Consultative Council - Episcopal Church, An Taisce, Arcidonna Onlus, ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations, Association of Country Women of the World, Association of World Citizens, Aware, Babiker Bedri Scientific Association for Women's Studies, Bahá'í International Community, Bridge International, Business and Professional Women International, Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action, Caritas International, Catholic Women's League of Australia, Center for UN Reform Education, Center for Women's Global Leadership, CIVICUS, Commonwealth Foundation, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, Comunidad Joboshiaming, Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relations with the United Nations, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Congregations of St. Joseph, Congress of Black Women of Canada, Daily Graphic-Ghana, Earth People - Washo Tribe of Nevada and California, Earth Track, Economists Allied for Arms Reduction, End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes, ENLACE / IFG, Espacio Autonomo A.C., Ethnic Minority Rights Organizations of Africa, Femmes Africa Solidarity, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Fundacion Cultural Baur, Global Action to Prevent War, Global Call to Action against Poverty, Global Ecovillage Network, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Global Policy Forum, Global Youth Action Network, Green Women's Association of Finland, Guyanese Organization of Indigenous Peoples, Habitat Protection Association, Ihanktonwan Dakota Oyate (Yankton Sioux), Indigenous Policy, Instituto Qualivida, International Alliance of Women, International Association for Religious Freedom, International Association of Charities, International Chamber of Commerce, International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity, International Council for Caring Communities, International Council on Human Rights Policy, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of University Women, International Presentation Association, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Khmers Kampuchea Krom Federation, KU Center, La Leche League International, League of Women Voters, Lutheran World Federation, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, MDG Global Watch, Minority Rights Group, National Council of Negro Women, National Council of the Women of Finland, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S., National Women's Council of Ireland, National Women's Organization, Natural Resources Defense Council, NCTP Consejo General de Taenos Broicanos, Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, Nepal Tulasa Lata Amatya, Netherlands Council of Women, NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, NGO Committee on Social Development, NGO Committee on the UN and Sports, NGO Health Committee, NGO/DPI Executive Committee, Norwegian Forum, Nurses Across the Borders, Oglobe Dakota, Oxfam International, Pan Pacific and Southeast Asian Women's Association, Passionists International, Pathwayth Gender Equality - WHIFEM, Pax Christi, Pax Romana, Peace Action, Peace Links, Peaceboat, Pueblo Quechua Tauria Peru, Red Nacional Milenio Feminista, Rights & Democracy, Sakiguchi AAUW, Salvation Army, Sancherika Samuhar, Sante de la Reproduction pour une Maternite Sans Risque, Sawid, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Semees, SEWA NEPAL, Sherpa Association of Nepal, Sierra Club, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, Society of Sacred Heart, Soka Gakkai International, Solar Cookers International, Soroptimist International, Taiwanese Feminist Scholars Association, Temple of Understanding, The Flying Eagle Women's Fund, The Grail, Tribal Link, UNANIMA International, Union of International Associations, United Church of Christ, United Nations Association-USA, Widows for Peace, Womankind Worldwide, Women for International Peace and Arbitration, Women's Federation for World Peace, International Women's Intercultural Network, Women's World Summit Foundation, World Conference on Religion and Peace, World Council of Churches, World Council of Peoples for the United Nations, World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Union of Catholic Women, Worldwide Organization for Woman, Youth with a Mission England, YWCA-Nigeria, and Zonta International.