

NEWSLETTER

July 2015

I. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CoNGO

HONOURING THE UN ON ITS 70th ANNIVERSARY

It is my privilege to yield the CoNGO Presidential statement in this issue to the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Martin Sajdik. Ambassador Sajdik was the Keynote Speaker at the highly successful CoNGO Event at UN Headquarters, New York, on May 7. His statement follows.

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO
president@ngocongo.org

Keynote address by His Excellency Martin Sajdik
President of the UN Economic and Social Council

CoNGO Event
Honouring the United Nations
on its 70th anniversary

Thursday, May 7, 2015
UN Headquarters
New York

Mr. Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I take part in this very timely event and I wish to thank Mr. Ritchie for organizing it.

The year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. In commemorating the achievements of the UN we must also remember the opening words of the Charter – ‘We the peoples of the United Nations ...’ – which have been attributed to the presence of non-governmental organizations at the founding conference in San Francisco, as has been the inclusion of Article 71 which enabled the Economic and Social Council to engage with NGOs.

Civil society organizations should be proud of their role thus far in ensuring that the promise of the MDGs is met through a wide range of citizen action and engagement. The last decade has witnessed the emergence and flourishing of a growing number of civil society organizations to

become effective advocates and champions for the MDGs. Civil society organizations have become increasingly represented in international, regional and national fora, demonstrating their capacity to engage in policy debates and in holding national governments and international agencies to account.

The level of engagement of civil society organizations in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda is remarkable. Your participation is a key element to making this a people-centered agenda.

As the 70th President of the Council, my vision for ECOSOC has been to show how debate at global level can translate into effective sharing of knowledge, mutual learning and delivering on promises that stimulate specific actions and lasting results for people. I believe that the work modalities of the Council should be guided by the principles of inclusiveness, transparency and flexibility.

As the gateway to the UN for all non-state stakeholders, the Council has provided an enabling environment where all relevant stakeholders can come together for advancing an integrated approach to a unified and universal agenda.

Throughout my Presidency I have been heartened by the level of commitment and dedication of the civil society. And as President of the ECOSOC I am delighted to tell you that each year around 400 NGOs apply for consultative status with the Council. Last year 383 NGOs were granted this special status. As of April 2015 the total number of NGOs in consultative status is 4167.

This month the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda will focus on the framework for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the agenda. This discussion is of fundamental importance to civil society.

As I have said previously, the main emphasis of the follow-up and review of development results will need to be at the national level. This is where Governments are accountable to their own citizens. This is where the agenda will be implemented, observed, measured and evaluated by each country. This is also where civil society is most active. Furthermore, these national efforts will have to be linked to global and regional frameworks.

There is broad consensus that the whole strengthened ECOSOC architecture --- including the high-level political forum, the Integration Segment, the biennial Development Cooperation Forum, the QCPR process and the financing for development process --- is uniquely placed to offer substantive guidance for an integrated approach to the follow-up and implementation of the post-2015 agenda.

The Council's 2015 theme to support the transition from the MDGs to the sustainable development goals was carefully chosen to allow the ECOSOC system to advance the reflection on the legacy of the MDGs and the transition towards a new development agenda centered on sustainable development.

Similarly, the aligned theme of the HLPF on strengthening integration, implementation and review after 2015 is aimed to discuss the forum's role and ways to implement its function in following up on and reviewing the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

I encourage you to closely follow the discussions in the Council and the HLPF and to actively participate in the deliberations.

Moving towards the post-2015 era, the Council will remain committed to fostering the engagement and dialogue of NGOs through a variety of means, including attendance to official meetings, access to all official information and documents, oral and written contributions to the segments and meetings of the Council, speaking roles in panel discussions, interventions during interactive sessions and general debates, organizing side events, and contribution through e-discussion forums and social media platforms.

In addition, under the HLPF architecture, I will continue to engage with the Major Groups and other stakeholders through the morning dialogue sessions. This year, I intend to invite Member States to join these sessions. I welcome proposals from Major Groups and other stakeholders for civil society representatives to speak in the various panels and round tables to be held as part of the programme of the HLPF.

NGOs act as advocates, disseminating views and information and mobilizing public support for decisions and initiatives taken at the global level. NGOs will be critical in communicating the post-2015 development agenda and engaging more people. The Council will rely on your support to communicate the agenda to the public.

The Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group of the President is a useful venue through which concrete proposals and innovative approaches for greater engagement of stakeholders in the work of the Council could be identified.

Since 2008, the Council has convened an annual Partnership Forum where stakeholders are brought together to jointly discuss how partnerships across a variety of sections such as global public health, education, science and technology, agriculture and food security, can help to advance an array of MDGs.

The 2015 Partnership Forum will look at ways to improve the outcomes and results in the post-2015 era building on lessons learned from MDG partnerships. The future Partnership Forums will have to look at new ways in which multi-stakeholder partnerships can support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda by disseminating its achievements, including best practices and lessons learned, promoting the replication of successful partnership models, and facilitating greater collaboration and coordination among different types of partnerships.

One of my personal priorities during my Presidency has been the ECOSOC Youth Forum. This year's Forum has once again shown that youth representatives and Member States can come together to engage in open dialogue and advance solutions for the challenges that young people and their societies face. The future Youth Forums will have to ensure that youth engagement is strengthened to enable young people to play a role in the implementation and review of the post-2015 agenda.

It is my view that the Council should increase its interaction with other groups such as parliamentarians and academics so as to add input and value to ECOSOC's work. One way could be to hold similar events as the Partnership Forum with each of these non-state actors on an annual basis so as to strengthen their engagement and involvement for added impact.

Let me conclude by repeating what a representative of Fiji said "In any economy the Government is the driver, the UN development system and the private sector are the engine, the civil society is the GPS and people are the passengers". If we are to meet our goals of ending poverty, reducing inequality and protecting the environment, then we will all have to work together to forge new partnerships and alliances. The role of civil society will be even more important for the next 15 years in guiding the work of governments, international institutions and the private sector.

I wish you a successful event and I look forward to an interesting exchange of views.

Thank you

II. SECRETARIAT

Many NGO bodies, and CoNGO is an example, operate with totally insufficient funds, and therefore depend to an exceptional degree on freewill service given by interns and volunteers. I wish to honour two of them in the current period.

Sinmyung Park, our Korean intern from Kyung Hee University, finished his internship in May and returned to Seoul. He has however, while planning his future studies (and also his marriage in August!) continued to assist CoNGO with the same devotion and skills that he displayed throughout his time in Geneva. The present E-NEWSLETTER has been prepared by Sinmyung Park, and I express warmest appreciation for this continued involvement.

Donna Reitano has been a volunteer at the Geneva office throughout 2015, giving programmatic and logistical support for the planning of the three CoNGO Events honouring the UN on its 70th Anniversary. She has recruited and is currently supervising a Geneva interne who is preparing a date base that will enable us to move purposefully towards the convening in 2016 of the CoNGO Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific, a project that has been on the back burner too long. Donna is also central to a CoNGO project that I shall announce shortly, namely offering CoNGO members in the wider Geneva region workshops on fundraising and organizational development, both areas where Donna has many years of expertise. I thank Donna Reitano wholeheartedly for her volunteer spirit and time.

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

III. CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Center for Governance and Sustainability, University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has announced its inaugural class of Andrew Carnegie Fellows, a group of extraordinary scholars addressing urgent challenges to democracy and international order. Professor Maria Ivanova of the UMass Center for Governance and Sustainability is one of the distinguished professionals selected. Her research project will be of interest to NGOs, as it deals with "The United Nations at a Crossroads: Collection of Conventions or Mechanism for Planetary Stewardship".

Information:

http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Wl8Jl8ukb5Sl22hmlnZpjEWUgxtobeg07Pe415WpJ2XynnMGioeztH0pjz3-cqFSi560bUHjOb_vSiNuX_ZaZDrR8IMiwzbDV6O6juTjVNUIdITVlqDctnsfDPIf19p8yPRQa6MhAhnoEf4Nbwh43j0WhYHEQJ25SXJOWWj17HB8-V0x4zsD82xpYW8RD1r5UGIJRiX5L6qVmNd9bN1MzCkJpvHcqISpykMmxn43GpVRjllrsdvCoRE_JM-jvtzrjDBzrfhpJuxB8l3K0WQFLTzTRZniMu7-dMammlsclec-3AEe7pJdDezACDNarpXSBkwmykzdHApwIDH5D539G66OVcJWZ7ZbQlviipyunonGktgbVOlczwAGLbajav9&c= Ep_MBI8tQpLJyXS5byBNn-sEBXj_29DnkHFVM_gsQN9_B3c8vEjg==&ch=ir1JhDFbuUrhCRMgom0z6rnTAfL4V9mKWx5wsgUrSeCNlnGOCsT32w==

Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust (SRMT) New York Workshop "Voice of the voiceless", May 22, 2015

Theme: "The anguished appeal by the innocent victims of violence for cessation of all hostilities occurring in the name of religion across the continents and the key role of NGOs and Media can play in mitigating the agonies"

On the theme of mitigating inter & intra religious violences and setting the directions for future actions, speakers emphasized the need to have a coordinated and harmonized approach among all the spiritual and religious leaders on showing the future directions to address the dire needs of mankind in its pursuit of a remedial course correction for resolving the current complications and problems created by the materialistic as well as blinkered narrow approaches.

In the next session, sharing the experience and assessments of the United Nations related to the above topic in the last two decades, the speakers noted that though the efforts of UN are continuously ongoing in these directions much more effective, result oriented and concerted planning and actions need to be carried out in a more coordinated manner by all the member countries.

A new format of value based education system for the younger generation and a unified approach for spiritualizing humanity on the basis of common acceptable core ethical and moral

values were underscored as important remedial actions identified for the UN to focus in the coming period.

In the afternoon session on the role of peace related NGOs and Media in mitigating violence, the speakers underlined the importance of unifying, strengthening, empowering and enabling all NGOs working for the material and spiritual upliftment of mankind throughout the world and give them a greater say in future decision making platforms. While the various governments holding power and authority necessarily take their respective positions on most of the vital issues in line with their narrow national self interests, the NGOs working on peace related themes such as disarmament, human rights, economic justice, women empowerment, conservation of environment, sustainable energy, global warming control etc. have a much wider, altruistic and nobler vision towards the entire mankind.

In conclusion, a brain storming session was held on the theme: “Priority actions required to create the 21st century into a century of Peace, Justice, Dignity and Sustainability” the gist of which is given below.

1. Humanize business and industry
2. Reclaim and reestablish the global economy for all citizens on an equitable basis
3. Focus all actions to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals
4. Advance holistic approaches to science and medicine.
5. Promote and establish justice for all based on mercy, humility and equality.
6. Get women and youth in larger measure involved in all social, political, economic, religious and spiritual dialogues
7. Design holistic approaches to develop a collective voice for all positive changes.
8. Establish and promote interfaith diplomacy initiatives.
9. Strengthen and link the diverse interfaith and spiritual councils and develop a common acceptable spiritual and ethical value based program for universal adoption.
10. Establish a new system of value based education -Collect powerful moralizing stories of non-violence, compassion to fellow men and peace from all sacred texts from all parts of the world and publicize them exhaustively.

For further details please contact:

sriramanujamissiontrust@gmail.com

IV. UN NEWS & UPCOMING UN EVENTS

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS MICHAEL MØLLER OF DENMARK AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on June 30 the appointment of Michael Møller of Denmark as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Mr. Møller is currently Acting Head of the United Nations Office at Geneva. He has served in this role since November 2013. He was previously Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation

from 2008 to 2011. Mr. Møller has over 30 years of experience as an international civil servant in the United Nations, since beginning his career in 1979 with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and serving in different capacities in Iran, Mexico, Haiti and Geneva.

UN GLOBAL COMPACT

The long-serving Executive Director of the UN Global Compact, Georg Kell, will shortly leave on retirement. As from September 1, 2015, the new Executive Director will be Lise Kingo, Chair of the Danish Council for Corporate Responsibility. She is former Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff at Novo Nordisk.

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ZEID RA'AD AL HUSSEIN OPENS OFFICE IN SOUTH KOREA SEOUL, 23 JUNE 2015

Your Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Honourable Ministers and Justices,
Ambassadors and representatives of the diplomatic community,
Distinguished guests and friends of OHCHR in the Republic of Korea,

I am delighted that my very first visit to Asia as High Commissioner for Human Rights is to the Republic of Korea – and the great city of Seoul.

It gives me even greater satisfaction that I should be here to open a new Field Office in Seoul to work on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the first presence of its kind that OHCHR has established in the Northeast Asia region.

I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for accepting to host this office, which was mandated last year by the Human Rights Council as a follow up to the Commission of Inquiry on human rights in DPRK.

I would also like to thank the Seoul Metropolitan Government for helping us establish the office in the Seoul Global Centre.

Less than 50 miles from here lies another world marked by the utmost repression and deprivation. Tens of thousands of Korean people have escaped that reality, and through hazardous means, reached a new life in the ROK. But millions remain trapped in the grip of a totalitarian system which not only denies their freedom, but increasingly their basic survival needs. Tens of thousands, deemed to be disloyal have suffered an even more brutal fate. Separated families and victims of abduction continue to search for truth and contact with their loved ones.

In human rights and humanitarian work, we strive always to be as close as possible to the victims. The new OHCHR office in Seoul – positioned at the hub for information, analysis and

networking in DPRK – promises to take the response of the United Nations human rights system to a new level.

The Seoul office will monitor and document human rights issues in the DPRK, building on the landmark work of the Commission of Inquiry and Special Rapporteur. We firmly believe this will help lay the basis for future accountability.

The Seoul office also has a mandate for practical cooperation with member states, national institutions and civil society, and will work in partnership with you to strengthen our collective efforts for human rights change in DPRK.

The past year has brought unprecedented signs of engagement by DPRK with the international human rights system, and I have continued to extend an open hand of cooperation and assistance to implement the recommendations made by UN mechanisms. I note that the current drought in DPRK calls for humanitarian solidarity and support.

The Seoul office will also drive outreach, to bring our urgent messages about human rights in DPRK to the attention of a broader public.

It is fitting, in this country that is at the cutting edge of the information age, that my first task should be to introduce the official website of the United Nations Human Rights Office (Seoul)!

The website address is seoul.ohchr.org, and it features the latest news from the Seoul office as well as relevant reports and updates from the United Nations system. Importantly, the website is fully bilingual in English and Korean. We hope you will visit.

Our office is already “trending” very strongly on Korean social media, especially Naver. Please do connect with our Facebook, Twitter and Naver accounts – and for those “power bloggers” among you, spread the word and show your support for human rights in the DPRK.

I would like to acknowledge in particular the Special Rapporteur, Mr Marzuki Darusman, and the main sponsors of the Human Rights Council resolutions on DPRK – Japan and the EU – who have led the way in rising to this challenge.

It gives me great pleasure to declare open the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Seoul), and to pledge our commitment to a better future for the people of DPRK. We count on your support.

Thank you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

In Geneva: Ravina Shamdasani: +41 22 917 9169 / rshamdasani@ohchr.org
or Cecile Pouilly: +41 22 917 9310 / cpouilly@ohchr.org

In Seoul: Rupert Colville (for the duration of the mission): SMS +41 79 506 1088 / rcolville@ohchr.org

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OFFICE OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN SEOUL, IN ENGLISH AND KOREAN:

Website: <http://seoul.ohchr.org>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UnrightsSeoul>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UnrightsSeoul>

Naver: http://blog.naver.com/ohchr_seoul

ILLICIT TRANSFER AND MISUSE OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Statement delivered on 15 May by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein to the United Nations Security Council

"I am grateful for the opportunity to address the Council on the human cost of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

The bloodshed and devastation caused by these weapons never fails to elicit unanimous declarations of dismay. But when the international community is called upon to control more effectively the production and trade of small arms and light weaponry, States push for loose definitions, as well as numerous exclusions and loopholes, and enforcement remains weak. The reason is clear: the trade in small arms is a multi-billion-dollar business.

And yet the human and economic cost of armed violence also runs into the hundreds of billions of dollars. These are the weapons of the easy kill: the most portable, most easily accessible, most casual instruments of death – even a small child can, with its tiny muscles, vanquish a life. In war, however, appallingly, it is often the child that receives the bullet.

The vast majority of victims are not the live version of the silhouetted man on a white sheet of paper holding a gun, what law enforcement and militaries the world over use for target practice. The live version is very different. The majority of bullet-ridden and mortar-blasted humans are ordinary people, not combatants in armed conflict. They tend to be among the poorest or most vulnerable members of society: older people, women, children, people with disabilities. Frequently, they are the "left-behinds", people who cannot flee when danger looms, because they have nowhere to go or because they are not physically able to move. Many are killed; countless others are maimed, and may be permanently disabled.

If they were to reflect reality more closely, the silhouettes used for target practice would not then be menacing gunmen, but terrified people hiding under tables, or cowering in the corners of dark rooms with their families, or lying face down in a ditch.

And why? Because war is not just the clinical fulfilment of some military or strategic objective, war, in the killing zone, often means a gruesome showcasing of human cruelty, and for reasons we still do not yet properly understand. Why does it have to be so violent to civilians and non-combatants?

There are simply too many who will indulge in the commerce of death, in the illicit business of arms transfers which is undeniably damaging to human life, and yet we rarely see those responsible for facilitating and abetting serious violations of human rights and international

humanitarian law held accountable in any way. We must place the protection of human life and human rights at the centre of this discussion....."

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMA IN MENTAL HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAW

The International Diploma in Mental Health, Human Rights and Law is currently accepting applications for the academic year 2015-16. The Diploma, now in its 8th year of existence, is a collaboration between WHO and the ILS Law College in Pune, India. The course builds the capacity of students to advocate for human rights and to influence national legislative and policy and service reform in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other key international human rights standards. It is a one-year Diploma and includes two residential sessions and distance learning.

Students to date have comprised health and mental health professionals, lawyers, mental health service users/survivors, government officials, social workers, human rights defenders and families and carers. The course is taught by a faculty of renowned international experts in the area.

More information about the Diploma is also available at:

<http://cmhlp.org/diploma>

The prospectus and application forms are available at:

<http://cmhlp.org/applications-and-fees/download-prospectus-and-forms>

In addition the OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE (OSI) WILL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR TWO STUDENTS FROM CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE/FORMER SOVIET UNION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COURSE. These are fully funded fellowships and include tuition fees, travel, accommodation & living expenses for the residential sessions. If you are interested and qualify for this grant please state on your application that you wish to be considered for the OSI fellowships.

V. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL – INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTRE

By the end of 2014, a record-breaking 38 million people had been forced to flee their homes within their own country because of conflict or violence, prompting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to appeal for "an all-out effort to bring about peace in war-ravaged countries."

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) along with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), released these alarming figures when launching the report "Global Overview 2015: people internally displaced by conflict and violence".

The report, compiled by the NRC's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), revealed that 38 million people have been internally displaced by conflict or violence, the equivalent of the total populations of London, New York and Beijing combined, representing a 4.7 million increase compared to 2013.

With internal displacement figures reaching a record high for the third year in a row, the report also shows that 11 million people were newly displaced by violent events throughout 2014, which amounts to 30,000 people forcibly displaced every day.

The report showed that Syria, with 7.6 million displaced people or at least 40 per cent of its population, makes it the country with the largest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world, and Iraq suffered the most new displacement, with at least 2.2 million people fleeing in areas that fell under Islamic State control.

"We know that more and more internally displaced have been forced to move within their country multiple times," said Volker Türk, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection. "The longer a conflict lasts, the more insecure [displaced persons] feel and when hopelessness sets in, many will cross borders and become refugees."

WORLD BANK GROUP GENDER STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The World Bank Group is preparing a renewed gender strategy, which is expected to be finalized and discussed by the Board of Executive Directors later this year. The strategy is being developed to support countries and companies achieve gender equality as one pathway to ensuring lasting poverty reduction and shared prosperity. In developing the strategy, the World Bank Group is consulting with stakeholders worldwide to seek their input on country and regional perspectives, global lessons learned and good practices to reduce key gender gaps.

A Concept Note has been prepared and will serve as a basis for discussion during consultations with stakeholders through mid-July. A dedicated consultation web page www.worldbank.org/genderconsultation provides a platform for stakeholders to provide input and contribute to the strategy development. Through this platform all interested individuals and parties can provide written comments on-line via a survey form. Input and comments can also be sent by downloading a Word version of the questionnaire available on the webpage and sending it by email to genderconsultations@worldbankgroup.org. Individuals and parties can also indicate their interest in joining scheduled multi-stakeholder face-to-face meetings by signing up on the web page. Consultation meetings will be announced with as much advance notice as possible to facilitate.

The webpage includes information related to the review and timeline, consultation process, relevant background information, related resources, the schedule – as it is confirmed - of face-to-face meetings, and other relevant information as the consultation process progresses. The site, together with the key consultation documents (e.g. Concept Note, the consultation plan, the strategy) is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Link: <http://www.worldbank.org/genderconsultation>

VI. CALENDAR

NOTICE:

1. The CoNGO Calendar is a service to the NGO constituency to enable each individual organization to determine, in good time, its possible or desired involvement in the event mentioned, in accordance with the organization's own statutory or programmatic focus.
2. The conferences and meetings listed in the CoNGO Calendar are not under the convening or invitational or access responsibility of CoNGO. They are listed for the information of readers, and any queries about any event should be addressed solely to the organizer of the event, not to CoNGO.

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

2015

70th Anniversary of the United Nations Organization (1945-2015)

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48149#.U9oWsvl_vTo

150th Anniversary of the International Telecommunications Union (1865-2015)

<http://www.itu.int/en/council/150committee/Pages/default.aspx>

UN International Year of Soils

<http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/en/>

Serbian Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

<http://www.osce.org/pc/121276>

July

July 13-16: UN: 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/third-conference-ffd/index.htm>

July 27-30: Asian Population Association: 3rd International Conference (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

www.asianpa.org

July 28-31: TRANSED: 14th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (Lisbon, Portugal)

<http://www.transed2015.com>

September

September 7-11: 14th World Forestry Conference (Durban, South Africa)

WFC XIV – Info@fao.org

October

October 12-15: TELECOM WORLD 2015, Budapest, Hungary

October 12-16: Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) - Istanbul, Turkey

12 - 13: GFMD Civil Society Days

14: GFMD Common Space between Governments and Civil Society

15 - 16: GFMD Government Days

November

November 1-4: WORLD MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY (world@ned.org)

Eighth Global Assembly (Seoul, Korea)

Theme: "Empowering Civil Society for Democracy and Its Renewal"

http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001ytfSPSgyYKEJ96FI15QAPS9ATsL0xhJla06yXcFjTwtXUlnGonDMFAohz6J19VcAfmHcjlCp86FWS1TRfu5W2LxkBWJVVoVtL7KkTvqxVTKZP_6QcAoCXLD3Xicl_jVVIQx-DVy-

[AQhzaxTGKIRUmGcJnSISj_OFhcaiAjvAB_kD07UKrJxZJZwluWaG95MpCYD3pYXiO3jZLDX3ImHBVkpRBwRDcD7Rtj7SJF8Atg4diRsncR6GpHAeqXodmE0U9LIMesO1hnWWwhYClzh_9vULaC4SNT28_XhSHWhh6uWRi3APeb50g==&c=4xVhMG-sb3PKpNvxIAkohBINFBzRm_XkBASvhla-OCS1hXCPL7TtGA==&ch=xcztJbpd7ftMyfw-n3fi_CxtjBdCtMKnQnKc6bB6CdkG6_2gkT9I9g==](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001ytfSPSgyYKEJ96FI15QAPS9ATsL0xhJla06yXcFjTwtXUlnGonDMFAohz6J19VcAfmHcjlCp86FWS1TRfu5W2LxkBWJVVoVtL7KkTvqxVTKZP_6QcAoCXLD3Xicl_jVVIQx-DVy-AQhzaxTGKIRUmGcJnSISj_OFhcaiAjvAB_kD07UKrJxZJZwluWaG95MpCYD3pYXiO3jZLDX3ImHBVkpRBwRDcD7Rtj7SJF8Atg4diRsncR6GpHAeqXodmE0U9LIMesO1hnWWwhYClzh_9vULaC4SNT28_XhSHWhh6uWRi3APeb50g==&c=4xVhMG-sb3PKpNvxIAkohBINFBzRm_XkBASvhla-OCS1hXCPL7TtGA==&ch=xcztJbpd7ftMyfw-n3fi_CxtjBdCtMKnQnKc6bB6CdkG6_2gkT9I9g==)

November 16-18: OHCHR: Fourth annual United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

<http://www.ohchr.org/2015ForumBHR>

December

December 15-18: World Trade Organization (WTO) Tenth Ministerial Conference (Nairobi, Kenya)

2016

German Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

March

March 14-18: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD):

UNCTAD XIV - Lima, Peru

May

May 11-12: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: UN World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, Turkey)

<http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/>

May 23-27: UN Environment Assembly: Second Meeting of the UN Environment

Assembly (Nairobi, Kenya)

The overarching theme of UNEA-2 will be “Delivering on the environmental dimension of the post-2015 development agenda”

<http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/second-meeting-of-the-un-environment-assembly/>

July

July 25-27: Third session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III: JAKARTA, Indonesia

August

August 20-26: International Federation of University Women (IFUW): 32nd Triennial Conference

"Empowering women and girls through lifelong, quality education and training up to the highest levels." IFUW has adopted a new name: Graduate Women International .

September

September 30-October 3: Global Campaign on Military Spending: World Congress – “War, Money, Transformation: Disarmament for Development!” (Berlin, Germany)

<http://demilitarize.org/get-involved/conference-2016/>

October

October 17-20: Habitat III Conference: Quito, Ecuador

UN Commission on Human Settlements: HABITAT III (Quito, Ecuador)

<http://unhabitat.org/habitat-iii/>

UNODC: Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the World Drug Problem – “Achieving the 2019 Goals – A better Tomorrow for the World’s Youth”

www.ungass2016.org

2018

UN General Assembly: UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/action-alerts/high-level-nuclear-disarmament-conference.html>

UN-Habitat: 9th World Urban Forum (WUF9)(Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

<http://unhabitat.org/kuala-lumpur-to-host-world-urban-forum-in-2018/>

2019

100th Anniversary of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

<http://www.ilo.org/century/lang--ja/index.htm>