



WHAT'S NEW

◆ **UN-NGO-IRENE / NGO Section Mission to Geneva, Switzerland**

Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO-Section/UNDESA, attended in Geneva, Switzerland the international PrepCom II meeting for the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). In addition to promoting NGO activities for the upcoming NGO and Civil Society Forum for the second phase of the WSIS, that ATM (UN-NGO-IRENE/Africa Coordinator) is organized in cooperation with the UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section in Tunis, Tunisia, 23-25 April 2005, Ms. Mezoui chaired a panel discussion of the African caucus “ICT for All” during the PrepCom proceedings. Consultations were also facilitated with the NGO Liaison Office in Geneva in order to further coordinate activities in the future and promote NGO activities in the ECOSOC High-Level Segment of July 2005 and the +5 Review processes of the MDGs. A Plan of Action between UN-NGO-IRENE and the Geneva Liaison Office was agreed upon for all 2005 United Nations events. Discussions were also held in order to coordinate activities and NGO programs with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), especially during the upcoming 61st Session of CHR, and the harmonization of the accreditation procedures between CHR and ECOSOC.

◆ **UN-NGO-IRENE Preparatory work for upcoming Mission to Pakistan to assist the International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs**

Since the last advisory mission of Ms. Najet Karaborni, Senior Advisor and Project Coordinator of UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section (August 2004), significant technical coordination and support is being provided to “All Pakistan Women’s Association” (APWA) and the Government of Pakistan in their extensive preparatory work for the upcoming high-level International Conference on “Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs” of Islamabad Pakistan, 28-30 March 2005. The Conference will review the progress made so far in implementing the MDGs globally and examine international and national best practices towards achieving Goal 3 –to promote gender equality and empower women. Ms. Karaborni will continue in Islamabad her assistance in the preparatory work and drafting of Conference documents (17-27 March), the conduct (28-30 March) and the finalization of the Islamabad Plan of Action and Report (28 March – 1 April) of the International Conference. The outcome of the Conference will be consolidated mainly into the Islamabad Plan of Action and will serve as APWA’s statement to the ECOSOC High-Level Segment of 29 June – 1 July 2005. Mr. Sarbuland Khan, Director of the Office for Coordination and ECOSOC Support will act as panelist

in the plenary session on “Mainstreaming Gender into National Development Policies” while Ms. Hanifa Mezoui and Ms. Karaborni will also participate as panelist presenters during the Conference deliberations.

◆ **UN-NGO-IRENE / NGO Section Preparatory work for upcoming NGO/Civil Society Forum and Mission to Tunisia**

The UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section has been assisting the “*Association Tunisienne des Mères*” (ATM), the UN-NGO-IRENE/Africa Regional Coordinator, in preparation for the upcoming Preparatory NGO/Civil Society Forum “For an Inclusive, People Centered, Development Oriented and Knowledgeable Information Society for All” of Tunis, Tunisia, 23-25 April 2005. The mission of Ms. Karaborni to Tunisia (2-12 April 2005) will also include analyses of the NGO Survey questionnaire replies on NGO contributions to the MDGs’ implementation and ICT, and the preparatory work for the First International Conference on the UN-NGO-IRENE of 24 April 2005, Tunis, Tunisia.

◆ **UN-NGO-IRENE briefing of DPI NGOs on 3 March 2005**

Mr. Paul Hoeffel, Chief of the NGO Section/DPI, organized a briefing session on the topic “Millennium +5 Process: Civil Society Preparation Town Hall Meeting” in the Daj Hammarskjöld Auditorium at UN Headquarters, 3 March 2005. On behalf of Ms. Mezoui, Ms. Karaborni briefed NGOs on UN-NGO-IRENE partnership activities with leading NGOs and NGO coalitions in consultative status with ECOSOC to strengthen their contributions to the ECOSOC work during the +5 year Review of the MDGs. The session also included statements by Mr. Henk-Jan Brinkman, Senior Economic Affairs Officer/Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Mr. Joseph Donnelly, Chair/58th Annual DPI-NGO Conference, and Ms. Fannie Munlin, Representative/NGO Millennium +5 Network. It concluded with an interactive dialogue with NGOs from the audience.

◆ **UN-NGO-IRENE Participation in panel: “ICT and Women Empowerment”**

On Friday 4 March 2005, a panel discussion on “ICT and Women Empowerment” was organized by ATM, UN-NGO-IRENE/Africa Regional Coordinator in preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Tunis, Tunisia, 16-18 November 2005 and in conjunction with the current 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The event was hosted at the Francophonie Mission to the UN in New York. ATM President, Ms. Saida Agrebi facilitated the event and Ms. Mezoui made the Keynote address. As a panelist, Ms. Karaborni highlighted the contributions of the UN-NGO-IRENE to the WSIS and its preparatory process.

COMING SOON

- ◆ NGO Committee Parallel Events in conjunction with the Commission on the Status of Women (49th Session-CSW), 28 February – 11 March 2005. Log onto <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/Review/english/side-events.htm> for a list of side NGO events.

- ◆ ECOSOC NGO Forum, 10 March 2005, New York in Preparation for the ECOSOC substantive session of July 2005 to feed the ECOSOC HLS Ministerial Declaration. Contact mezoui@un.org and karaborni@un.org
- ◆ International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs, 28-30 March 2005, Islamabad, Pakistan. Sponsored by APWA, the Pakistan government and several UN agencies including DESA and supported by UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section. Contact karaborni@un.org or log onto the Conference website for more details and registration: <http://www.pakconference2005.com>
- ◆ NGO/Civil Society International Forum and NGO Survey in preparation for the upcoming Second Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), 23-25 April 2005, Tunis, Tunisia. Contact karaborni@un.org for participation details and registration.
- ◆ First International Conference of the UN-NGO-IRENE Coordinators and Partners at all levels (local, sub-regional, regional and global), 24 April 2005, Tunis, Tunisia, to review the progress report of the UN-NGO-IRENE activities, discuss the means to develop its General Voluntary Fund and agree on a UN-NGO-IRENE future strategic action plan as well as share innovative experiences and best practices among the NGO community. All participants are requested to bring their respective proposals and recommendations to enhance the Conference dialogue and contribute to the expected plan of action outcome.
- ◆ 2005 Resumed Session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, ECOSOC, 9-20 May 2005, United Nations Headquarters, New York. For more information, contact desangosection@un.org

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION / EXAMPLE *To Follow*

◆ **Submitted by CERFE an NGO in general consultative status with ECOSOC:**
 An international research project on vulnerability, poverty and social exclusion, which includes field studies from Morocco and Mozambique, was carried out by CERFE on behalf of UN/DESA, with funding provided by the Government of Italy. An innovative approach model was designed and tested for analyzing and measuring poverty and social exclusion while supporting the design and implementation of social policies. Starting from the recognition of poor people as social actors, it focuses on their subjectivity and social agency, an important notion for the formulation of anti-poverty policies. It adopts the distinction between poverty and social exclusion, which affects people who are not necessarily poor but may be at risk for becoming poor, including people with particular vulnerabilities, such as older persons, youth or the chronically ill. The model also allows for the measurement and quantification of poverty and social exclusion, taking into account their multidimensional character and thus focusing. not only on economic, but also social influences and causes. The results of this research was presented during a successful side event on “Vulnerability, poverty and social exclusion - New methods of

appraisal for public policy-making and civil society action” on 10 February 2005 during the 43rd Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development. The event was moderated by Sergei Zelenev, UN/DESA with Alfonso Alfonsi, Vice President CERFE, Abderrahim Harouchi, Minister of Social Development, Family and Solidarity, Morocco, and Giovanni Daverio, General Director of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Italy.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2005 ***Not to Miss!***

- ◆ 28 February – 11 March 2005: 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-49), United Nations Headquarters, New York. Contact the NGO-Section/DESA office or visit the CSW website for details on NGO registration and participation in the Commission.
- ◆ 14 March – 22 April 2005: 61st Session of the Commission on Human Rights, Geneva. Contact the NGO-Liaison Office at ungeneva.ngoliaison@unog.ch
- ◆ 11-22 April 2005: The 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13), New York. Policy Year: “Decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation in the thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements.”
- ◆ 18 April 2005: Special High-Level meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, New York.

USEFUL LINKS:

- ◆ **NGO-Section/DESA:** <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo>
- ◆ **Commission on the Status of Women:** <http://www.un.org/womenwatch>
- ◆ **International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs:** <http://www.pakconference2005.com>
- ◆ **CERFE:** <http://www.gruppocerfe.org>
- ◆ **Center for International Rehabilitation:** <http://www.cirnetwork.org>

NGOs’ CONTRIBUTION ***Submit your contribution***

◆ **UN-NGO-IRENE NGO Survey on the MDGs and ICT:**

The UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section is pleased to report strong contribution and participation of NGOs worldwide to the NGO Survey with consideration to the progress and aims of NGO contributions to the implementation of the MDGs and the Millennium Declaration and ICT, as 2005 marks the +5 Review of the MDGs and the Second Phase of the WSIS. Many thanks to all participating NGOs.

◆ **Submitted by the Center for International Rehabilitation an NGO in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC:**

The Law Library of Congress (LLOC) and the Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) will be hosting a one day workshop on International Disability Rights on 30 March 2005 at the James Madison Memorial Building in Washington, DC (USA), in cooperation with the Friends of the LLOC; the American Association of Law Libraries' Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section; the American Society of International Law; and the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C. The following issues will be explored: The framework of international non-discrimination principles that currently promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities; the latest information on the ongoing UN convention process; a comparative analysis of selected national initiatives; and the on-going efforts to assess implementation of existing legal standards. For more information, please contact: Emmet Regan, Center for International Rehabilitation at +202-223-3559 or email at eregan@circnetwork.org

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