



Up coming events organized by our partner CONGO

April 2010

***The CONGO update is produced by staff in New York, Geneva and Vienna,
with contributions from members and affiliated partners.***

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▪ **CoNGO Events and Announcements:**

▪ **CoNGO Committees: NGO Committee on Financing for Development, Meeting, 7 April 2010, New York**

The NGO Committee on Financing for Development (New York) has scheduled its next meeting on 7 April 2010 from 13:30 to 16:00 hours at the Church Center in New York. The agenda is available [here](#).

▪ **Launch of the NGO Committee on the Environment, Preparatory Meeting, 29 April 2010, Geneva**

A preparatory meeting to launch an NGO Committee on the Environment is being organised on 29 April 2010 from 15:00 to 17:00 hours at the CoNGO Conference Room, Avenue de la Paix 11, Geneva.

"Today we are facing multiple crises in the world, all demanding difficult choices. However, be these related to the economy, development, climate change, trade or to social or cultural factors, at the heart lies one common denominator: the environment. This meeting is called to create the structure and clarify our priorities for 2010."

For information, please visit www.csf-ong.org .

▪ **CoNGO Civil Society Development Forum 2010 (CSDF) – New York Component, 4 – 5 May 2010**

CoNGO is pleased to announce that it will hold the New York Component of its Civil Society Development Forum 2010 on 4 and 5 May 2010.

CoNGO's Civil Society Development Forum is an NGO preparatory meeting for the Substantive Session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This year, the theme of the Annual Ministerial Review (High-Level Segment of that Substantive Session) will focus on "implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to **gender equality and the empowerment of women**". For further information, please visit [CoNGO's website](#) .

▪ **UN/IO Events and Announcements:**

▪ **2010 ECOSOC High-Level Segment Open Call for Oral and Written Statements**

The NGO Branch of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs announced "an open call for oral and written statements for the 2010 ECOSOC High-Level Segment (HLS) for NGOs in ECOSOC consultative status. The HLS will include sessions on the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF).

The theme for the AMR segment this year will focus on "Implementing the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments in regard to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women", while the theme for the DCF will be "Development Cooperation in Times of Crises: New Commitments to Reach the MDGs". The HLS will be held in June/July 2010 at UN HQ in New York." More information is available [here](#).

▪ **Now Online: "Nomination for a Speaking Role at the Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector", 14 – 15 June 2010, New York**

From 20 to 22 September 2010, the UN General Assembly will hold, in New York, a High-Level Plenary Meeting, also referred to as the "MDG Summit". The Summit's main focus will be "to build on what we have learned during the past 10 years since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and how to accelerate progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, in particular MDGs."

As a part of the process leading to the Summit, the UN General Assembly will also "convene interactive informal hearings with representatives of NGOs, civil society and the private sector on 14 and 15 June 2010. The outcomes of these hearings will provide an input to the preparatory process for the Summit and be issued as an Assembly document.

A nomination process for speakers at the hearings has now been opened so that interested NGOs, civil society and the private sector can nominate individuals to actively participate at the event." More information, including application details, is available [here](#).

▪ **Launch of Dedicated Website for Civil Society and the MDG Summit by the Millennium Campaign and UN-NGLS**

"2010 will be a critical year in determining which development pathways our world will pursue. In 2000, UN Member States agreed to the Millennium Declaration and committed themselves to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

Only five years remain to achieve the MDGs, and despite some progress, collectively we are falling short. The consequence of our collective failure is that improvements in the lives of the poorest are slow to be realized – or not at all – and are now being further eroded by the onset of global crises, including economic, food and climate. However, the MDGs are achievable."

In order to keep interested civil society stakeholders informed on the latest developments related to the summit process, the UN Millennium Campaign and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) have launched a dedicated website. This website will report on the latest developments related to the summit, give voice to perspectives from civil society and provide information on how to engage in the summit process.

Visit the website here: www.un-nxls.org/mdg2010.

▪ **9th Session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, 12 – 16 April 2010, Geneva**

The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent has scheduled its 9th Session from 12 to 16 April 2010 in Room XXI at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The opening meeting will begin on 12 April 2010 at 10:00 hours.

This session is to "include an analysis of structural discrimination against people of African Descent, including in the areas of access to education, access to health, in the administration of justice, and the use of disaggregated data as a tool to combat structural discrimination. The session will also contain a discussion of possible activities in the context of the International Year for People of African Descent (2011)."

The agenda of this session is available at www.ohchr.org.

■ **“Bilateral and Multilateral Negotiation: Strategies and Techniques”, e-Learning UNITAR Course for NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN, 12 April – 7 May 2010**

The UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has announced an online course (in French) on “Bilateral and Multilateral Negotiation: Strategies and Techniques”, which will take place from 12 April to 7 May 2010.

This course “will provide a methodological and practical introduction to negotiation, and to a lesser extent mediation. It aims to introduce participants to these processes, conflict management, the construction of inclusive solutions, and to work with communication techniques germane to these modes of system and organizational management.”

More information about this course is available [here](#).

■ **9th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 19 – 30 April 2010, New York**

The 9th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled from 19 to 30 April 2010 at UN HQ in New York. Pre-registration is now open.

The theme for the 9th Session will be “Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity; articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”. More information about this session, including on NGO participation, is available [here](#).

■ **11th Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development, 26 – 30 April 2010, Geneva**

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has announced that the 11th Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development will be held from 26 to 30 April 2010 in Room XII at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

■ **8th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group, 3 – 14 May 2010, Geneva**

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council announced that the 8th Session of the UPR Working Group will take place from 3 to 14 May 2010 in Room XX at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. More information is available [here](#).

■ **“Responding to Global Crises: New Development Paths”, UNCTAD 2010 Public Symposium, 10 – 11 May 2010, Geneva**

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has announced its 2nd Public Symposium to be held on 10 and 11 May 2010 in Room XVIII at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The key topics to be debated will be:

- Rethinking global economic governance: towards trade and financial reforms for enhancing development; and
- Sustainable development strategies.

The findings of this summit will be delivered as a formal input to the 2010 MDG Review Summit at the UN General Assembly in September. More information is available at www.unctad.info/en/Public-Symposium-2010.

■ **WSIS Forum 2010, 10 – 14 May 2010, Geneva**

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) has scheduled its Forum 2010 from 10 to 14 May 2010 in Geneva.

An open consultation process in preparation of the Forum was concluded on 10 February 2010. The Forum "will offer participants a series of high-level debates and interactive sessions addressing issues critical to the WSIS implementation in multi-stakeholder set-ups. The Forum will provide structured opportunities to network, learn and participate in the multi-stakeholder discussions and consultations on the WSIS implementation."

For more information, please visit the Forum website:
www.itu.int/wsis/implementation/2010/forum/geneva.

■ **63rd United Nations DPI/NGO Conference – "Global Health", 30 August – 1 September 2010, Melbourne**

The UN Department of Public Information (DPI)/NGO has announced that its 63rd Conference will take place from 30 August to 1 September 2010 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The conference is to "highlight effective ways in which civil society, in partnership with other actors, can contribute to fostering global health: not just managing disease. Global health encompasses multifaceted challenges of transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions. It involves many disciplines, within and beyond the health sciences, and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration. The Conference sessions will emphasize the need for more integration of health programs, methods to generate outcome data, cost effective delivery, sustainability, and emphasize prevention, to achieve equity in global health."

More information about this conference is available [here](#).

■ **Civil Society Events and Announcements:**

■ **Survey on a European Civil Society House Project**

The European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) "is currently in the beginning phases of setting up a European Civil Society House (ECSH) as part of the European public sphere. The approach is based on a broad definition of civil society to include NGOs and also participation by individual citizens. The House, in Brussels, will be used by a group of European associations in the areas of human rights, civil society development and citizen participation. The ECSH will also have some space reserved for national NGOs visiting Brussels, or seeking temporary office space.

The House will provide face-to-face as well as virtual online help desks for associations and individual citizens. The main function will be that of interlocutor between the EU and citizens seeking to enforce their European rights or make their voice heard within the EU through petitions, citizens' initiatives or Europe-wide participatory democracy deliberations."

In support of this initiative, ECAS is inviting NGO representatives to complete [this survey](#).

■ **"PeaceTalks" – Online Discussion Forum by the HD Centre (Geneva)**

The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre) has opened its so-called "PeaceTalks", an online discussion forum for the sharing of information, experience and opinions on conflict resolution related issues. "The first article for discussion is drawn from the new publication *Mediation ten years on*. It reflects the opinion of the authors on the main issues around mediation on the tenth anniversary of the HD Centre.

PeaceTalks is designed to provide access to an increasing resource of informed articles from experienced professionals. The interface allows users to make their own contribution to the discussion or to ask questions of the peacemaking community." More information is available [here](#).

▪ **“Human Rights Principles and NGO Accountability”, Online ICHRP Discussion Forum**

The International Council on Human Rights Policy (ICHRP) is currently hosting an online discussion on “human rights principles and NGO accountability”.

This online forum is “intended to discuss how human rights principles and values influence the debate on NGO accountability. What does the human rights framework contribute to governance and management of NGOs? How does it determine the nature and limits of state regulation of civil society action? How can human rights values assist NGOs to navigate the complex relationships they have with their different constituencies?”

More information about this discussion forum, including details on registration, is available [here](#).

▪ **Rural Health Exhibition, 20 March – 20 April 2010, Kinshasa and Matadi, Province of Bas-Congo**

The Centre d’Amitié Suisse-RDC is organising an exhibition with the theme “Santé Rurale” (Rural Health) with a view to helping rehabilitate health centres for women and children who had been victims of violence. The event will take place at the University of Kinshasa and in Matadi, Province of Bas-CoNGO, from 20 March to 20 April 2010.

The first phase of the project is to focus on information-gathering, especially in the most affected areas. The second phase is to attract donors’ interest in specific project activities.

▪ **“Global Health Challenges of Tomorrow; Impact and Response”, Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development Conference and Exhibition, 4 – 6 April 2010, Dubai (UAE)**

Supported by Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Est., the United Nations, the UAE Red Crescent Society and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development Conference and Exhibition (DIHAD) will be held from 4 to 6 April 2010 at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The overall aim of the event is to “contribute to the further enhancement of technically sound and principled international humanitarian and development assistance” and “to provide a platform where assistance providers can interface with relevant actors from the corporate and governmental sectors with a view to creating meaningful synergies in support of those in need.” More information is available at www.dihad.org.

▪ **“Ending homelessness is possible! How can the EU effectively contribute to the fight against homelessness?”, Campaign Launch, 14 April 2010, Brussels**

FEANTSA – the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless - will launch its campaign with a hearing entitled “Ending homelessness is possible! How can the EU effectively contribute to the fight against homelessness?” It will take place on 14 April 2010 from 15:00 to 18:00 hours at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The event is to be an opportunity to debate “the ways in which the EU can facilitate effective action to tackle homelessness. The event will also launch the publication *Ending Homelessness: a Handbook for Policy Makers*’ and FEANTSA member Projekt UDENFOR’s exhibition of life-size sculptures of homeless people by the Danish artist Jens Galschiøt.

More information, including the draft agenda, is available [here](#).

▪ **Unite For Sight Global Health and Innovation 2010 Conference, 17 – 18 April 2010, New Haven, Connecticut**

“Unite For Sight” has scheduled its Global Health and Innovation 2010 Conference on 17 and 18 April at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

This event is to convene “more than 2,200 students and professionals from 55 countries who are interested in global health and international development, public health, medicine, social entrepreneurship, nonprofits, philanthropy, microfinance, human rights, anthropology, health policy, advocacy, public service, environmental health, and education.”

There will be an opportunity to submit a social enterprise pitch for presentation at the conference. More information about this event is available [here](#).

▪ **“Celebrating 100 Years of Global Collaboration of Women Empowerment and Environmental Advocacy – Worldwide Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)”, Brunch, 19 April 2010, Geneva**

On the occasion of the 100th year of the World Wide Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), its Geneva representation is organising a “celebration breakfast” on 19 April 2010 from 8:30 to 9:30 hours in Salle 3 at the UNEP International Environment House in Geneva.

More information is available [here](#).

▪ **Peoples’ World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth’s Rights, 19 – 22 April 2010, Cochabamba, Bolivia**

In the follow-up of [COP15](#), the Peoples’ World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth’s Rights is being organised from 19 to 22 April 2010 in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

The objectives of this world conference are to:

1. “Analyze the structural and systemic causes of climate change and propose substantive measures that facilitate the well-being of all mankind in harmony with nature.
2. Discuss and agree the draft Universal Declaration of rights of Mother Earth.
3. To agree on proposals for new commitments to the Kyoto Protocol and projects for a COP Decision under the United Nations Framework for Climate Change that will guide future actions in those countries that are engaged with life during climate change negotiation.
4. Work on the organization of a people’s world referendum on climate change.
5. Analyze and draw up a plan of action to advance the establishment of a Climate Justice Tribunal.
6. Define strategies for action and mobilization in defense of life against climate change and for mother earth rights.”

The UN press conference outcome document about this world conference is available [here](#).

More information, including participation procedures, programme and background documentation, is available at www.cmpcc.org.

▪ **Presentation of the Book “Alcohol, No Ordinary Commodity”, 20 April 2010, Geneva**

The Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA) is organising with CoNGO a presentation of the book “Alcohol, No Ordinary Commodity” (2nd Edition) by the editor and co-author Mr Thomas Babor. The event is scheduled on 20 April 2010 at 14:00 hours at the CoNGO Conference Room, Avenue de la Paix 11, Geneva.

▪ **“No East, No West”, International Conference on Intercultural Dialogue, 26 – 30 April 2010, Malacca, Malaysia**

Entitled “No East, No West”, the “World Youth Foundation” is organising an international conference on “fostering understanding and building bridges across cultures among young people of Asia and Europe”. The event is to take place from 26 to 30 April 2010 at the Holiday Inn Melaka, Malacca, in Malaysia.

The objectives of the conference are:

- “To create awareness of cultural differences at local, national and international level, as well as to identify existing common ground.
- To increase intercultural and interfaith dialogue and build bridges between those of different faith and ethnicity especially between young people of Asia and Europe.
- To encourage initiatives aimed at promoting understanding of the diverse cultures and faith of countries in Asia and Europe particularly among the younger generation.
- To recognize that religious leaders, politicians, the business community and young people have a role in promoting a peaceful world.
- To promote the use of mass-media and ICTs for the promotion of peace, dialogue and non-violence.”

For more information, please visit www.wyf.org.my.

▪ **“Housing Rights: from Theory to Practice”, European Conference, 6 May 2010, Barcelona, Spain**

FEANTSA – the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless – is organising a European conference entitled “Housing Rights: from Theory to Practice” on 6 May 2010 from 9:00 to 18:30 hours at the University of Barcelona.

The goal of the conference is to “explore the theoretical background to housing rights at the international, at the European and at the national level, to share experience on the practical implementation of housing rights and to provide a forum for existing and potential correspondents of the Housing Rights Watch network.”

More information about this event is available [here](#).

▪ **Summer School on Human Rights, Minorities and Diversity Management, 21 June – 2 July 2010, Bolzano/Bozen, Italy**

EURAC Research is organising a “Summer School on Human Rights, Minorities and Diversity Management” from 21 June to 2 July 2010 at the Institute for Minority Rights – EURAC in Bolzano/Bozen, Italy.

This summer school “deals with the complexities of human and minority rights and diversity management in Europe mainly through the discussion of the international and interregional protection mechanisms of the United Nations, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. Moreover, the wide range of linguistic, educational and political rights to be found in different national constitutional systems will be explored.”

More information is available [here](#).

▪ **Campaigns and Initiatives:**

Nomination of the WWSF Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life -
www.woman.ch/june09/women/1-introduction.php

People's Decade for Nuclear Abolition – Campaign: www.peoplesdecade.org

Decent Work - Decent Life Campaign: www.decentwork.org

Global Campaign against Poverty: www.whiteband.org

International NGO Journal – Call for Papers: www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ

▪ **NGO Resources:**

“Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme – A Handbook for Civil Society”, Publication by OHCHR www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/NgoHandbook.aspx

Integrated Civil Society Organization System – UN/DESA Civil Society Participation Database
esango.un.org/civilsociety

UN-NGO-IRENE Best Practices Network www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/irene

Globethics.net Library – A Global Digital Library on Ethics www.globethics.net

Resources and Calendar for Peace Issues – International Peace Bureau
www.ipb.org and www.ipb.org/i/newsletters-and-publications/VI-A-ipb-newsletters-and-calendars.html

Internet Governance Caucus Website www.igcaucus.org

African Journal of Political Science and International Relations www.academicjournals.org/ajpsir