



Up coming events organized by our partner CONGO

February 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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■ **UN/IO Events and Announcements:**

■ **UNITAR E-Learning Courses for NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC**

The UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has set up registration procedures for its online courses on "Multilateral Conferences and Diplomacy", scheduled from 1 to 26 March 2010. These courses are to help facilitate participation of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC in UN activities, and more specifically in multilateral conferences.

More information is available at: www.unitar.org/mdp/e-learning.

Online registration is possible via: www.unitar.org/mdp/e-learning/registration.

■ **45th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 18 January – 5 February 2010, Geneva**

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is holding its 45th Session from 18 January to 5 February 2010 in Room XVI at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Information about NGO participation is available [here](#).

General information, including the provisional agenda, is available [here](#).

■ **"Women and Human Rights", Online Discussion Forum Moderated by OHCHR, 1 – 28 February 2010**

Via the "[Civil Society Net](#)", an online discussion forum on women and human rights will take place from 1 to 28 February 2010.

Focusing on issues of accountability and access to justice, the main sub-themes will be investigated:

- "[National legal frameworks](#) – challenges, trends and best practices with respect to legal protection of women's human rights (**Week 1**);
- [Accountability](#) – challenges, trends and best practices with respect to ensuring accountability for violations of human rights of women, including violence against women (**Week 2**);
- [Access to justice](#) – challenges, trends and best practices with respect to women's access to justice (**Week 3**);
- [Summary, wrap-up and observations](#) (**Week 4**)."

The discussions will be moderated by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). For more information and confirmation of participation, please visit the "Civil Society Net" [here](#).

■ **48th Session of the Commission for Social Development, 3 – 12 February 2010, New York**

The Commission for Social Development has scheduled its 48th Session from 3 to 12 February 2010 at UN HQ in New York. Please see also the reference to a side-event organised by the NGO Committee on Social Development. More information about this Session is available [here](#).

■ **7th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review, 8 – 19 February 2010, Geneva**

The 7th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is scheduled from 8 to 19 February 2010 in Room XX at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

A list of States to be considered at this Session may be downloaded [here](#).

Information about NGO participation is available [here](#).

General information about the UPR and the upcoming Session is available [here](#).

▪ **“Confronting the Crisis Collectively: Working Together to End Poverty”, 7th Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty, 24 – 26 February 2010, Rotterdam, The Netherlands**

The 7th Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty, organised by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), is scheduled from 24 to 26 February 2009 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The theme of the event is “Confronting the Crisis Collectively: Working Together to End Poverty”. More information is available at: www.wacap2010-rotterdam.nl.

▪ **13th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 1 – 26 March 2010, Geneva**

The 13th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council is to take place from 1 to 26 March 2010 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Background documentation and information about webcast during the 13th Session of the Human Rights Council are available [here](#).

A comprehensive collection of resources concerning information about NGO participation, deadlines for submissions and the organisation of side-events is available [here](#).

▪ **98th Session of the UN Human Rights Committee, 8 – 26 March 2010, New York**

The 98th Session of the UN Human Rights Committee is to take place from 8 to 26 March 2010 at UN HQ in New York. More information about this event is available [here](#).

▪ **“15-Year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Outcomes of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly (2000)”, 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 1 – 12 March 2010, New York**

The 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has been scheduled from 1 to 12 March 2010 at UN HQ in New York. The theme of this Session is “15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly (2000)”.

Information about the 54th Session of the CSW is available [here](#).

▪ **4th High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, 16 – 17 March 2010, New York – NGO Registration Now Open**

The 4th High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development has been scheduled on 16 and 17 March 2010 at UN HQ in New York.

This Dialogue is to focus on the theme “Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: status of implementation and tasks ahead”.

“The first day of the Dialogue will consist of plenary meetings chaired by the President of the General Assembly, at which ministers and high-level officials will be able to make formal statements. The second day will be devoted to three interactive multi-stakeholder round tables followed by an informal interactive dialogue with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. The themes of the 3 round tables and the interactive dialogue will be as follows:

- Round table 1: “The reform of the international monetary and financial system and its implications for development”;

- Round table 2: “The impact of the current financial and economic crisis on foreign direct investment and other private flows, external debt and international trade”;

- Round table 3: “The role of financial and technical development cooperation, including innovative sources of development finance, in leveraging the mobilization of domestic and international financial resources for development”;

- Informal interactive dialogue: “The link between financing for development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: the road to the 2010 high-level event”.

The registration for this event is online and open until 19 February 2010 at: www.un-ngls.org/ffd.

■ **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.

More information about this Session, including on NGO participation, is available [here](#).

■ **WSIS Forum 2010 – Open Consultation Process on-going – 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.

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

■ ***Civil Society Events and Announcements:***

■ **Global Humanitarian Platform 2010, 2 – 3 February 2010, Geneva**

The Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP) was created as an outcome of the 12-13 July 2006 Dialogue Between UN and Non-UN Humanitarian Organisations.

For more information about the GHP, please visit www.globalhumanitarianplatform.org.

■ **Security Jam, 2–9 February 2010, Brussels–Online Security Jam 4–9 February 2009**

The Security and Defence Agenda (SDA), a Brussels-based think-tank, is currently holding an event entitled “Security Jam” till 9 February 2010 in Brussels.

The event is designed to analyse and clarify the changing threats to international peace. Additionally, “the growing importance of NGOs in security thinking and practice is due to be reflected in the Jam Session’s week-long discussions.”

More information, including registration details, is available [here](#).

An online version of the Security Jam will be accessible from 4 to 9 February 2010. The organisers describe it as “a worldwide online brainstorm” and as an event “designed to allow several thousand representatives and experts from around the globe take part in an online debate on key issues that govern our safety and development. As such, it is an important opportunity for all stakeholders and interested parties to make their voice heard. And, as an online session, it allows participants to log in and log out at their convenience, from anywhere in the world.” Information and about the online Security Jam, including registration procedures, is available [here](#).

■ **“Psychology and Diplomacy: Negotiating for Peace and Human Rights”, 3rd Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations, 4 February 2010, New York**

On the occasion of the 3rd Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations, several psychology-focused NGOs are organising an event entitled “Psychology and Diplomacy: Negotiating for Peace and Human Rights” on 4 February 2010 from 13:00 to 17:00 hours at the Millennium Hotel, One UN Plaza, in New York.

More information, including the full programme and registration details, is available [here](#).

■ **“The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty”, Policy Roundtable, 5 February 2010, New York**

The EastWest Institute is organising a policy roundtable entitled “The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty” on 5 February 2010 from 13:00 to 14:45 hours at their premises in New York. For more information and confirmation of participation, please send a message to tlarsen@ewi.info.

■ **“Be Free! Live Free! Health Movement”, Event, 7 February 2010, New York**

“Save Africa Concerts”, with partners, is organising an event entitled “Be Free! Live Free! Health Movement” on 7 February 2010 from 12:30 to 13:30 hours at 770 – 784 Glenmore Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208, New York.

The topics for the event include:

- “a shared forum;
- HIV/AIDS prevention education;
- support for the vulnerable children; and
- testing and counselling.”

The flyer for the event is available [here](#).

■ **3rd Annual Women’s Land Link Africa (WLLA) Grassroots Women’s Land Academy, 8 – 9 February 2010, Lusaka, Zambia**

The Huairou Commission and the Katuba Women’s Association are jointly organising the 3rd Annual Women’s Land Link Africa (WLLA) Grassroots Women’s Land Academy on 8 and 9 February 2010 in Lusaka, Zambia. More information about this event is available [here](#).

■ **Roundtable Discussion on Regional Dimensions of Human Security, 10 February 2010, Geneva**

The Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) is holding a roundtable discussion on the “regional dimension of human security” on 10 February 2010 from 9:30 to 12:15 hours at their offices in Geneva.

The discussion is to focus on the “recent GARNET policy brief ‘The Regional Dimensions of Human Security’, which examines the role of regional organisations in implementing human security. It considers recent initiatives in the EU, AU, ASEAN and PIF to address human security in the context of climate change, the global financial crisis, the H1N1 epidemic, conflict, poverty, and international migration.”

For more information, please contact Ms. Åsa Maria Granados (email: a.granados@gcsp.ch; phone: +41 (0) 22 906 16 13).

■ **“Access to Resources and the International Community”, 15th Annual Humanitarian Conference, 18 – 19 February 2010, Geneva**

“Webster University Geneva” is organising its 15th Annual Humanitarian Conference on 18 and 19 February 2010 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva (CICG).

Entitled “Access to Resources and the International Community”, this event is to focus on:

- Access to Natural Resources, Economic and Social Development;
- Access to Food & Water, Health & Hygiene; and
- Access and Value of Political and Civil Rights.

More information, including the programme, poster and the abstract, is available [here](#).

▪ **“New Democratic Toolbox for New Institutions”, European Citizen’s Panel, 26 February 2010, Brussels**

The European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) is organising a “European citizen’s panel” entitled “New Democratic Toolbox for New Institutions” on 26 February 2010 at Room 62 at the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels.

More information, including the agenda and background details, is available [here](#).

▪ **“Human Rights and International Succession”, Workshop, 2 March 2010, Geneva**

The Human Rights Commission of the International Union of Notaries (UINL) and the Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation are organising a workshop entitled “Human Rights and International Succession” on 2 March 2010 from 14:30 to 18:00 hours in Room XI at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The main objective of this workshop is “to deal with the problems arising from conflicts between Civil Law, Common Law and religious legislations during a succession, or when dealing with the succession of a person domiciled in a foreign country, and/or possessing property abroad”. For more information and confirmation of participation, please send an email to: info@uintl-international.com.

▪ **Geneva Summit for Human Rights, Tolerance and Democracy, 8 - 9 March 2010, Geneva**

A coalition of more than 25 NGOs is organising the 2nd Geneva Summit for Tolerance and Democracy on 8 and 9 March 2010 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva (CICG).

Held in parallel with the main annual session of the UN Human Rights Council, this event is to “assemble renowned human rights defenders, dissidents, and experts to advocate UN and international action for some of the world’s most compelling human rights issues and situations.” For a full overview of the event, including information on the programme, registration details, logistics and newsletter subscription, please refer to website www.genevasummit.org.

▪ ***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