



# Up coming events organized by our partner CONGO

March 2009

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

## ***In this issue:***

***CONGO Co-Sponsors World Civic Forum***

***CONGO Civil Society Development Forum 2009 – Implementing the Internationally Agreed  
Goals and Commitments in regard to Global Public Health***

***Durban Review Process – Call for NGO Participation***

***The 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission of the Status of Women***

***10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council***

***53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women***

***International Solar Energy Society meeting***

***Meeting on New GDN Global Research Project – “The Climate Challenge: Sustaining  
Development Progress in a Warming World”***

***UNCTAD Expert Meeting***

***“Adaption to climate change in Least Developed Countries – challenges, experiences, and  
ways forward”***

***“Managing and supporting relief staff after a critical event” Centre for Humanitarian  
Psychology workshop***

***Human Rights Committee 95th Session***

***“Transitions related to religion, minorities and gender” research conference***

***Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality***

***The 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements  
Programme (UN-HABITAT)***

***Coping and Resilience 2009 International Conference***

***Future of the Cohesion Policy and Territorial Cohesion***

***2009 Parliament of the World’s Religions***

***CONGO Committees***

***Campaigns and Initiatives***

***NGO Resources***

▪ **CONGO Events and Announcements:**

▪ **CONGO Co-Sponsors World Civic Forum, 5 – 8 May 2009, Seoul.** CONGO agreed to partner with Kyung Hee University – one of its associate members – in holding the World Civic Forum in Seoul, Korea, from 5 to 8 May 2009. The Forum, with the general theme "Building Our Humanitarian Planet," is a joint initiative of Kyung Hee University and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA). As a major sponsor, CONGO is encouraging its members worldwide to attend the Forum. The President of CONGO, Mr. Liberato Bautista, will be a keynote speaker. CONGO will be leading a panel on one of the three themes, particularly "Civic Engagement in Public and Global Governance." More information about the Forum, including a TV interview by Korea's Arirang TV with CONGO President Liberato Bautista and Dr. Euiyoung Kim, Chair of the WCF 2009 Steering Committee, can be found at <http://www.wcf2009.org>.

▪ **CONGO Civil Society Development Forum 2009 – Implementing the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments in regard to Global Public Health, 2 – 4 July 2009, Geneva.** CONGO's Civil Society Development Forum (CSDF) 2009 is scheduled from 2 to 4 July 2009 in Geneva. It will be held back-to-back with ECOSOC's High-Level Segment (6 – 10 July 2009), which will focus in 2009 on the theme "Implementing the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments in regard to Global Public Health." More information about this event will soon be available on CONGO's website: <http://www.ngocongo.org>.

▪ **Events and Announcements:**

**The 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, 2-13 March 2009, New York.** The fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 2 to 13 March 2009. The priority theme will be "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS". Also, the emerging issue of "The gender perspectives of the financial crisis" will be considered through an interactive expert panel. The session will be attended by representatives of Member States, UN entities and of ECOSOC-accredited NGOs from all regions of the world. For more information <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm>

▪ **10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council – Call for written statements – delegate accreditation, 2 – 27 March 2009, Geneva**

NGO written statements:

NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC may submit written statements relevant to the work of the Human Rights Council (in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of ECOSOC resolution 1996/31).

NGO written statements are to be submitted in accordance with the "[guidelines](#) for the submission of NGO written statements". NGOs may submit their written statements to the Council Secretariat electronically to [hrcngo@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcngo@ohchr.org). Please note that the deadline for the submission of written statements was 13 February 2009. The Council Secretariat will not be able to ensure the timely circulation of written statements submitted later than the deadline.

▪ **53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women – Femmes Africa Solidarité events, 3 – 5 March 2009, New York**

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) will organise a series of panel discussions during the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

FAS activities revolve around partnership, networking, media contact and high-level advocacy. The proposed panel discussions will mainly discuss HIV/AIDS and women, the effect of violence against women in conflict and post-conflict zones and the role of men. These FAS events will be held as follows:

3 March – 11:00 hours to 13:00 hours  
SCR 1325 and SCR 1820 Training  
United Nations Conference Room 7

4 March – 15:00 hours to 17:00 hours  
HIV/AIDS and women in conflict and post-conflict zones in Africa  
United Nations Conference Room E

5 March – 16:00 hours to 17:30 hours  
HIV/AIDS, women and war, special vulnerability for Darfur women. What role can men play?  
Drew Room, Church Centre

5 March 2009 – 18:00 hours to 19:30 hours  
Partnering for Change: Women and Men Rebuilding Communities in Post-Conflict Countries  
Drew Room, Church Centre

For more information, visit <http://www.fasngo.org>

▪ **International Solar Energy Society meeting, 5 March 2009, New York**

The International Solar Energy Society (ISES) will hold a meeting on 5 March 2009 from 13:15 hours to 14:45 hours in Conference Room E of the United Nations in New York. Speaker and editor Cary Krosinsky will address the theme, "Sustainable Investing, the art of long-term performance". Visit the UN NGO Sustainability website for more details: <http://www.unngosustainability.org>

▪ **Meeting on New GDN Global Research Project – "The Climate Challenge: Sustaining Development Progress in a Warming World", 9 March 2009, Copenhagen.** The Global Development Network (GDN) is presently engaged in identifying the thematic priorities for its next Global Research Project that has Climate Change as its chosen theme. It aims to fill some of the critical gaps in the knowledge base regarding the impact and implications of global climate change for economic development and poverty reduction around the world. A small, informal side-event is being organised with the Danish Development Research Network (DDRN) prior to the International Alliance of Research Universities' Scientific Congress on Climate Change in an attempt to mine the experience and talent present at the congress to help GDN move forward. For more information on the meeting and the project, visit the DDRN website: <http://www.ddrn.dk>

▪ **UNCTAD Expert Meeting, 10 – 11 March 2009, Geneva.** The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will be holding an Expert Meeting on mainstreaming gender in trade policy from 10 to 11 March 2009 in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The meeting will convene at 10:00 hours on 10 March 2009. The Expert Meeting will firstly analyze the extent to which trade policies affect women's empowerment and well-being, and the impact of trade policies on the level of inequality between men and women. Secondly, it will provide the opportunity for discussing relevant strategies to make trade policies more responsive to the specific needs of women.

▪ **"Adaption to climate change in Least Developed Countries – challenges, experiences, and ways forward", 10 – 12 March 2009, Copenhagen**

Organised by the Danish Water Forum, the Danish Research Network for International Health and the Danish Development Research Network as a parallel session under the scientific congress "Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions", the main purpose for the presentation is to contribute research-based input to the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP15) on the establishment of effective and pro-poor adaptation strategies in least developed countries. The event will take place during the International Alliance of Research Universities' Scientific Congress on Climate change from 10 to 12 March 2009. For more information on the session, visit the DDRN website: <http://www.ddrn.dk>

▪ **"Managing and supporting relief staff after a critical event" Centre for Humanitarian Psychology workshop, 12 – 13 March 2009, Geneva**

The Centre for Humanitarian Psychology will be offering a workshop themed "Managing and supporting relief staff after a critical event", from 12 to 13 March 2009, in Geneva. This one-and-a-half day workshop will introduce participants to the basic actions necessary immediately after a critical incident has occurred, and what rules to follow to support the team within the first 48 hours. Visit the CHP's website for more information: <http://www.humanitarian-psy.org>

▪ **Human Rights Committee 95th Session, 16 March to 3 April 2009, New York.** The ninety-fifth session of the Human Rights Committee will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 16 March to 3 April 2009. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 16 March 2009, at 10:00 hours in conference room 1. Here you can find the [programme of work](#) and the [provisional agenda](#) for the 95th session.

▪ **"Transitions related to religion, minorities and gender" research conference, 26 – 28 March 2009, Uppsala, Sweden**

The Centre for Studies of Religion and Society at Uppsala University, in collaboration with the projects Welfare and Values in Europe (WaVE), Welfare and Religion in an European Perspective (WREP) and Welfare and Religion in a Global Perspective (WRIGP), will host a research conference on "Transitions related to religion, minorities and gender" from 26 to 28 March 2009, at Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden. The conference aims to provide a forum for debate on values and welfare, focusing on values leading to cohesion or conflict and the extent to which these dynamics are related to religion, minorities or gender. For more information, visit the conference website: <http://www.waveproject.org/conference2008.php>

▪ **Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality, 30 March – 3 April 2009, Rio de Janeiro**

The Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality will take place from 30 March to 3 April 2009, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Four hundred fifty participants from around the world will share their work in applied research, policy and program development. Their work challenges rigid gender norms and engages men and boys in reducing violence against women and girls, promoting sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and fatherhood and caregiving. For more information, visit the symposium's website: <http://www.engagingmen2009.org>

▪ **The 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), 30 March - 3 April 2009, Nairobi, Kenya.** The 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) will be held from 30 March to 3 April 2009 at the UN-HABITAT headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The council is a high-level forum during which policy guidelines and the organisation's budget are established for the next two-year period. Check out the UN-HABITAT website for more details: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=571>

▪ **Coping and Resilience 2009 International Conference, 3 – 6 October 2009, Dubrovnik-Cavtat, Croatia.** The Coping and Resilience 2009 International Conference will be held from 3 to 6 October 2009, in Dubrovnik-Cavtat, Croatia. The conference will present the cutting edge knowledge and practices on coping and resilience in response to a variety of adverse life circumstances that individuals and communities face. Visit the conference website for programme topics and registration and submissions guidelines: <http://www.resilience2009.org>

▪ **Future of the Cohesion Policy and Territorial Cohesion, 26 – 27 March 2009, Prague.** The Czech Ministry for Regional Development will organise a conference on the future of the cohesion policy and territorial cohesion from 26 to 27 March 2009, in Prague. In total, the conference is expected to host 200 participants, including national delegations, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, the European Investment Bank, OECD representatives, representatives of regions and municipalities, representatives of associations and academics and other experts. For more information on the conference, visit the Czech Ministry for Regional Development website: <http://old.mmr.cz>

▪ **2009 Parliament of the World's Religions, 3 - 9 December 2009, Melbourne, Australia.** The largest interfaith event in the world, the Parliament of the World's Religions, will hold its 2009 assembly from 3 to 9 December 2009, in Melbourne, Australia. The gathering will bring together more than 8,000 people of faith, spirit and goodwill from around the world.

▪ **Durban Review Conference Information:**

**Please refer to this section for subsequent updates on this ongoing process. Further updates are available on the [Durban Review Conference website](#).**

**Durban Review Conference, 20 – 24 April 2009, Geneva**

The Durban Review Conference will be held at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 24 April 2009. The process of preparatory meetings, also conducted at the United Nations in Geneva, started in November 2008. The first formal meeting was held on 27 November 2008, during which the working group elected its first Chair, Yury Boichenko, First Counsellor at the Russian Permanent Mission. Other meetings were/will be convened prior to the main conference at the UN in Geneva as follows:

- a) 19 to 23 January 2009 - First intercessional open-ended intergovernmental working group meeting
- b) 10 to 16 April 2009 - Next formal session of the intercessional open-ended intergovernmental working group
- c) 15 to 17 April 2009 - Final session of the Preparatory Committee
- d) 20 to 24 April 2009 - Durban Review Conference.

**NGO Participation**

At this stage, governments are already negotiating text that resulted from the compilation of various proposals submitted by regional and other interest groups.

For more information on the Durban Review Conference please visit the following webpage: <http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/>

The document being negotiated is called "technically reviewed version of the compilation of proposals" (CRP.2) and can be found on the following webpage:

<http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/sessions.shtml>

\*\*\*

▪ **CONGO Committees: NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning – facilitation of NGO panel discussions on human rights education, 3, 12, 13, 16 and 23 March 2009, Geneva.** The NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning will facilitate a series of NGO panel discussions on human rights education. Each of the five panels, organised by different organizations, focuses on a specific area/issue of human rights. All panels will be held from 13:00 hours to 15:00 hours on the dates listed below. However, rooms and times for the panels will be confirmed later and flyers will be circulated. The discussions are scheduled as follows:

- 3 March 2009 – The Role of Human Rights Defenders in Human Rights Education
- 12 March 2009 – Safe School Environment for the Girl Child through a Human Rights Education Perspective
- 13 March 2009 – Intercultural and Interfaith Education: An Imperative for Achieving Freedom of Religion and Mutual Understanding
- 16 March 2009 – The UN Framework for Human Rights Education and Civil Society Participation: Draft UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and the World Programme for Human Rights Education.
- 23 March 2009 – The Role of Human Rights Education in Combating Racism and Discrimination

▪ **CONGO Committees: NGO Committee on the Status of Women International Women's Day Celebration: "The Economics of the Financial Crisis: Gender Equality and the Role of Women", 6 March 2009, Geneva.** The NGO Committee on the Status of Women (Geneva), partnered with the Non-Governmental Liaison Office of the United Nations Office at Geneva and CONGO, will host an **International Women's Celebration** on 6 March 2009 from 15:00 hours to 18:00 hours in Room XVI of the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The theme for the event will be "The Economics of the Financial Crisis: Gender Equality and the Role of Women". Visit the CONGO website for a provisional programme ([English](#), [French](#)) and an invitation to NGOs ([English](#), [French](#)).

▪ **CONGO Committees: NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, Reconstitution Meeting, 17 March 2009, New York.** The NGO Committee on Sustainable Development in New York will convene a meeting concerning the reconstitution of the committee. The meeting will be held from 13:15 hours to 15:30 hours in the Hardin Room on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of Church Center, 777 UN Plaza, New York. For more information about the meeting, visit the CONGO website for the meeting's [agenda](#) and [announcement letter](#).

▪ **CONGO Committees: Working Group Spirituality, Values and Business of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, 17 – 18 March 2009, New York.** The Working Group Spirituality, Values and Business of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values, and Global Concerns – New York will be holding a two day conference entitled, "Empowering Women in the Light of Education and Self Reliance Through Entrepreneurship", from 17 to 18 March 2009 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of United Nations Church Center, 777 UN Plaza in New York.

▪ **CONGO Committees: NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, General Meeting, 27 March 2009, Geneva.** The NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief (Geneva) will convene its next general meeting on 27 March 2009 at 13:30 hours in the NGO Resources and Services Centre at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

## ▪ **Campaigns and Initiatives:**

Decent Work Decent Life Campaign: [www.decentwork.org](http://www.decentwork.org)

Global Campaign against Poverty: [www.whiteband.org](http://www.whiteband.org)

Appeal and Petition for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World:  
[www10.plala.or.jp/antiatom/en/WC/e07wc/e-20070902\\_dec\\_riso.html](http://www10.plala.or.jp/antiatom/en/WC/e07wc/e-20070902_dec_riso.html)

Launch of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's Human Rights Prize – Call for Nominations: [www.assembly.coe.int/Committee/JUR/HumanRightsPrize](http://www.assembly.coe.int/Committee/JUR/HumanRightsPrize)

Gender Training Community of Practice (GT CoP) – UN-INSTRAW:  
[www.un-instraw.org/en/community-of-practice/general/gender-training-community-of-practice-gt.html](http://www.un-instraw.org/en/community-of-practice/general/gender-training-community-of-practice-gt.html)

International NGO Journal – Call for Papers: [www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ](http://www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ)

## ■ **NGO Resources:**

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

UN-NGO-IRENE Best Practices Network: [www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/irene](http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/irene)

First Committee Monitor – Resource on the General Assembly’s First Committee on Disarmament and International Security:  
[www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/FCM.html](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/FCM.html)

Globethics.net Library – A Global Digital Library on Ethics: [www.globethics.net](http://www.globethics.net)

Resources and Calendar for Peace Issues – International Peace Bureau: [www.ipb.org](http://www.ipb.org) and  
[www.ipb.org/i/newsletters-and-publications/VI-A-ipb-newsletters-and-calendars.html](http://www.ipb.org/i/newsletters-and-publications/VI-A-ipb-newsletters-and-calendars.html)

Internet Governance Caucus Website: [www.igcaucus.org](http://www.igcaucus.org)

2009 UNDP Procurement Training Calendar: [www.undp.org/procurement/training.shtml](http://www.undp.org/procurement/training.shtml)

International NGO Journal: [www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ](http://www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ)

African Journal of Political Science and International Relations:  
[www.academicjournals.org/ajpsir](http://www.academicjournals.org/ajpsir)