



Up coming events organized by our partner CONGO

October/November 2009

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

In this issue:

UN Events and Announcements:

- UN Survey on the Impact of the Global Crises on Civil Society Organizations and their Constituencies
- 12th Special Session of the Human Rights Council: "The human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and East Jerusalem"
- "Watchdog or Lapdog? Maximizing the Value of Internal Oversight for a Better United Nations", UNU Midday Forum
- "Decentralized Governments and the New Multilateralism", UN University (UNU) Panel Discussion
- 2nd Session of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards
- "New Challenges and Opportunities for Gender Equality in the ECE Region: Key Issues and Policy Responses", Beijing +15 Regional Review Meeting
- Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Inter-sessional Panel Meeting
- 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UN-ECE Water Convention
- UNRISD Conference on Social and Political Dimensions of the Global Crisis: Implications for Developing Countries
- "Minorities and Effective Political Participation", 2nd Session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues
- UN Climate Change Conference – COP15

Civil Society Events and Announcements:

- "Un train contre la faim"
- "Children and Families Speak out against Poverty", Commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- "mundtot. sprachlos. auftreten gegen den frauenhandel", Podium Discussion
- "Beyond aid: Is our aid focus too narrow? Development Policy Forum (DFP) Panel Debate
- HREA Webinar: Civil Society and the UPR"
- "Human Rights Defenders and Freedom of Association", Panel Discussion
- Conference on Development and Information Technologies
- "Nuclear Non-Proliferation: Challenges and Opportunities", Seminar
- International Coalition of Cities against Racism, International Conference
- "The Public Voice: Global Privacy Standards in a Global World", Conference
- International Peace Bureau Annual Conference
- "Europe's Interlocking Challenges: Energy and the Economic Crisis", European Policy Summit
- World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Call for Registration
- "The Forgotten Children: A major European Conference addressing the subject of Children of Parents with a Mental Illness"
- 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions

Campaigns, Initiatives and Resources:

- Campaigns and Initiatives
- NGO Resources

■ **CoNGO Events and Announcements:**

■ **CoNGO Committees: NGO Sub-Committee for the Eradication of Poverty, "International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – Children and Families Speak Out Against Poverty", 19 October 2009, New York**

The NGO Sub-Committee for the Eradication of Poverty, the International Movement ATD Fourth World and the UN are organising a commemoration to honour the lives and efforts of those living in extreme poverty. Aside from an interactive panel entitled "Children: the Future and the Present – Participation in Poverty Reduction and Accountability for Rights", the event will include keynote speeches, personal testimonies of extreme poverty from children and young people and a musical performance by Adam Ezra.

The event is scheduled on 19 October 2009 from 13:15 to 14:30 hours in Conference Room 2 at UN Headquarters in New York. To register and for more information, please contact [ATD Fourth World](#) (+1-212-228-1339).

■ **CoNGO Committees: NGO Committee on Peace, Information and Discussion Meeting on "Climate Change as a Challenge for NGOs and Civil Society", 21 October 2009, Vienna**

The NGO Committee on Peace (Vienna) is organising an information and discussion meeting entitled "Climate Change as a Challenge for NGOs and Civil Society" on 21 October 2009 at 15:00 hours in Room M 7 at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) in Vienna. More information is available [here](#).

■ **CoNGO Committees: NGO Committee on the UN International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Meeting, 22 October 2009, New York**

The NGO Committee on the UN International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (New York) will meet on 22 October 2009 from 11:30 to 13:30 hours at DC2, 13th Floor Conference Room in New York. For more information, please contact the [Committee](#).

■ **CoNGO Committees: NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, "2009 Week of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns – The Spirit of the UN: Global Peace through Reconciliation", 26 – 30 October 2009, New York**

Honouring the 2009 International Year of Reconciliation, the 2009 International Year of Human Rights Learning and the Decade of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns (New York) is organising its "2009 Week of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns – The Spirit of the UN: Global Peace through Reconciliation". The event will take place from 26 to 30 October 2009 in New York. More information, including the programme, the event flyer and background details, is available at www.csvgc-ny.org.

■ **CoNGO Committees: NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NGO Interactive Roundtables on the UN-ECE Beijing +15 Regional Review Meeting, 30 – 31 October 2009, Geneva**

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women (Geneva) is organising an event entitled "NGO Interactive Roundtables on the UN-ECE Beijing +15 Regional Review Meeting" on 30 and 31 October 2009 at the Maison des Associations, Rue des Savoises 15, in Geneva.

The invitation letter for this event is available [here](#).

The provisional agenda is available for download [here](#).

To register for the event, please follow these [guidelines](#).

For more information, please send a message to ngocswgeneva@gmail.com.

■ **CoNGO Committees: NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NGO Global Women's Forum – Early Registration Now Open, 27 – 28 February 2010, New York**

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women (New York) has opened an early registration opportunity for participants at its NGO Global Women's Forum, which is scheduled to take place on 27 and 28 February 2009 in New York. Taking place during the 15th anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women, the Forum is to contribute to the preparation of NGO representatives expecting to participate at the 54th UN Commission on the Status of Women. More information is available [here](#).

■ **UN Events and Announcements:**

■ **UN Survey on the Impact of the Global Crises on Civil Society Organizations and their Constituencies**

The Civil Society and Outreach Unit of the UN Secretariat's Division for Social Policy and Development is inviting organisations to take part in a survey on the current situation that local, national and international civil society organisations are facing as a result of the global economic and environmental crises.

The results of the study are to be published for advocacy use by civil society organisations and will be made available at the [48th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development](#). For more information and guidance for participation in the survey, please visit [its website](#).

■ **12th Special Session of the Human Rights Council: "The human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and East Jerusalem", 15 – 16 October 2009, Geneva**

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council issued a Note Verbale informing that the 12th Special Session of the Human Rights Council is entitled "The human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem". The event is scheduled for 15 and 16 October 2009, commencing the first day at 15:00 hours in Room XX at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. More information, including on NGO participation and a copy of the Note Verbale, is available [here](#).

■ **"Watchdog or Lapdog? Maximizing the Value of Internal Oversight for a Better United Nations", UN University (UNU) Midday Forum, 15 October 2009, New York**

To commemorate its fifteenth anniversary, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and UNU-ONY are organising a high-level panel discussion. Entitled "Watchdog or Lapdog? Maximizing the Value of Internal Oversight for a Better United Nations", the event is scheduled on 15 October 2009 from 10:00 to 12:00 hours in Conference Room 8 at UN Headquarters in New York. The event will commence with an opening address by Mr Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General. More information, including bios of speakers and registration modalities, is available [here](#). A live, interactive webcast of the event will be available [here](#).

■ **"Decentralized Governments and the New Multilateralism", UN University (UNU) Panel Discussion, 19 October 2009, New York**

The UNU is organising a panel discussion entitled "Decentralized Governments and the New Multilateralism" on 19 October 2009 from 10:00 to 13:00 hours at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Penthouse at UN Headquarters in New York. More information is available [here](#).

■ **2nd Session of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards, 19 – 30 October 2009, Geneva**

The Secretariat of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards announced that it will hold its 2nd Session from 19 to 30 October 2009. The event will begin at 10:00 hours in Room XXI at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

For more information about this event, please contact the [OHCHR Civil Society Unit](#).

■ **“New Challenges and Opportunities for Gender Equality in the ECE Region: Key Issues and Policy Responses”, Beijing +15 Regional Review Meeting, 2 – 3 November 2009, Geneva**

At the 62nd Session of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), its member states decided to convene a “regional meeting in preparation for the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action”. This meeting is now scheduled for 2 and 3 November 2009 in Geneva. For more information, please visit the [UNECE Beijing +15 page](#), which includes background documentation, registration modalities and national answers to the “Beijing +15 questionnaire”.

■ **Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Inter-sessional Panel Meeting, 9 – 11 November 2009, Geneva**

[CSTD](#) has scheduled an inter-sessional panel meeting from 9 to 11 November 2009 in Room XXVI at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The meeting is to address two themes: (i) improvements and innovations in existing financial mechanisms, and (ii) new and emerging technologies.

More information and the registration form are available [here](#).

■ **5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention, 10 – 12 November 2009, Geneva**

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has scheduled its 5th session of the meeting of the parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) from 10 to 12 November 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. More information, including on the organisation of work, registration modalities and side-events open to NGOs, is available [here](#).

■ **UNRISD Conference on Social and Political Dimensions of the Global Crisis: Implications for Developing Countries, 12 – 13 November 2009**

The UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) is organising an international conference in Geneva to promote a better understanding of the social and political dimensions of the current crisis and policy and institutional reforms, and their implications for developing countries. For more information and to register online, please visit the [UNRISD website](#).

■ **“Minorities and Effective Political Participation”, 2nd Session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues, 12 – 13 November 2009, Geneva**

The 2nd Session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues has now been scheduled for 12 and 13 November 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The thematic focus of this Forum is on “Minorities and Effective Political Participation”. NGOs in consultative relationship with ECOSOC may participate, as well as other NGOs and organisations representing minorities “whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations”. More information about accreditation procedures is available [here](#).

■ **UN Climate Change Conference – COP15, 7 – 18 December 2009, Copenhagen**

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has scheduled its UN Climate Change Conference – COP15 – from 7 to 18 December 2009 at the Bella Center in Copenhagen. A series of UNFCCC meetings have taken place throughout 2009 which are designed to lead to an effective international response to climate change at that conference. General information and background documentation about COP15 is available at www.unfccc.int. UNFCCC information on civil society participation is available [here](#).

Civil Society Events and Announcements:

■ **“Un train contre la faim”, 16 October 2009, Geneva, Morges, Yverdon-les-Bains, Delémont**

On the occasion of the World Food Day, 16 October 2009, SWISSAID, Pain pour le prochain and others are organising the event “Un train contre la faim” (A Train against Hunger). A train car has been reserved from Geneva – with stops in Morges and Yverdon-les-Bains – to Delémont. Various events are scheduled to take place at each stop about an hour prior to the train’s departure time. The event will commence on 16 October 2009 at 12:00 hours (train departure: 13:14 hours) in Geneva. More information is available [here](#).

■ **“Children and Families Speak out against Poverty”, Commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 19 October 2009, Geneva**

The UN Office at Geneva (UNOG) and the International Movement ATD Fourth World are organising a commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty focusing on the theme “Children and Families Speak out against Poverty”. The event is scheduled on 19 October 2009 from 15:00 to 15:45 in Room VIII at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. For further information about this event, please send an email to intgeneve@atd-quartmonde.org.

■ **“mundtot. sprachlos. auftreten gegen den frauenhandel”, Podium Discussion, 21 October 2009, Vienna**

Justitia et pax is organising a podium discussion entitled “mundtot. sprachlos. auftreten gegen den frauenhandel” (Gagged. Voiceless. Standing up against trafficking of women). The event will take place on 21 October 2009 from 18:30 to 20:30 hours at Club 4, Stephansplatz 4, in Vienna. More information about this event is available [here](#).

■ **“Beyond aid: Is our aid focus too narrow? Development Policy Forum (DFP) Panel Debate, 22 October 2009, Stockholm**

At the margins of the European Development Days in Stockholm, DFP is organising a panel debate entitled “Beyond aid: Is our aid focus too narrow?” on 22 October 2009 from 14:45 to 16:45 hours at Stockholmsmässan. More information, including programme, panellists and registration modalities, is available [here](#).

■ **HREA Webinar: Civil Society and the UPR, 22 October 2009, Online**

The Human Rights Education Associates (HREA) are organising a web-based lecture and discussion – webinar – focussing on the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process and the role of civil society therein. The webinar will take place on 22 October 2009 at 12:00 noon GMT/UTC. For more information and to sign on, please visit the [HREA website](#).

■ **“Human Rights Defenders and Freedom of Association”, Panel Discussion, 23 October 2009, New York**

Human Rights First, the International Service for Human Rights and the Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN are holding a panel discussion entitled “Human Rights Defenders and Freedom of Association”. The event coincides with the publishing of the annual report to the UN General Assembly of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders. The panel discussion will take place on 23 October 2009 from 13:00 to 14:45 hours at the Delegates Dining Room at UN Headquarters in New York.

For more information, please send an e-mail to tolozac@humanrightsfirst.org

■ **Conference on Development and Information Technologies, 23 – 24 October 2009, Castelldefels, Barcelona**

The Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Open University of Catalonia, UOC) will be holding a Conference on Development and Information Technologies on 23 and 24 October 2009 at the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) in Castelldefels, Barcelona. The Conference, organised by the UOC and co-financed by the Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament, will be on “Mobile Phones and Internet in Latin America and Africa: What benefits for the most disadvantaged?” If interested in submitting a paper for this event, please visit the [UOC web-site](#).

■ **“Nuclear Non-Proliferation: Challenges and Opportunities”, Seminar, 29 October 2009, Vienna**

The Webster University Alumni Association is organising a seminar entitled “Nuclear Non-Proliferation: Challenges and Opportunities”. It is scheduled on 29 October 2009 from 9:30 to 17:00 hours at the Andromeda Tower, Vienna International Centre (VIC) in Vienna.

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

■ **International Coalition of Cities against Racism, International Conference, 29 – 31 October 2009, Bandung, Indonesia**

As follow-up to its international conference held in Nuremberg, Germany (5 – 6 October 2009), the International Coalition of Cities against Racism is organising the second event, which is scheduled from 29 to 31 October 2009 in Bandung, Indonesia.

The main objective of this event is to create a forum for local decision-makers from around the world to share experiences and successful practices to help develop and strengthen their policies. More information is available [here](#).

■ **“The Public Voice: Global Privacy Standards in a Global World”, Conference, 3 November 2009, Madrid**

The Public Voice is organising a conference on “global privacy standards in a global world” on 3 November 2009 at the Melia Castilla Hotel in Madrid.

The main goals of this conference are to:

- “review the privacy developments of the past year and release the current edition of the Privacy and Human Rights Report;
- promote civil society participation in decisions concerning the protection of privacy as both a fundamental human right and an essential facilitator for a global economy;
- develop global privacy standards in a global world;
- review and coordinate civil society involvement in privacy discussions in regional and other global arenas: CoE, EU, APEC, IGF, OECD, ITU, ICANN.”

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

■ **International Peace Bureau Annual Conference, 13 – 15 November 2009, Washington D.C.**

The International Peace Bureau Annual Conference will be held from 13 to 15 November 2009, in Washington D.C. The provisional title for the conference is "Rolling back militarism: a task for the global movement".

The programme will include a central event (the weekend conference) and additional activities before and after, depending on the wishes of partners and participants. Suggestions are welcome. This is intended to be a participatory event, including a top-class range of speakers, cultural presentations and opportunities to interact with key people in Washington D.C. and beyond. Check out the [IPB initial announcement](#) for more information.

■ **"Europe's Interlocking Challenges: Energy and the Economic Crisis", European Policy Summit, 18 November 2009, Brussels**

The Friends of Europe is organising a high-level European policy summit on the theme "Europe's Interlocking Challenges: Energy and the Economic Crisis". The event is to provide a platform for debate between stakeholders, including NGO and business leaders, academia, the EU and national policy makers. The event will take place at the Cercle Royal Gaulois in Brussels on 18 November 2009. More information is available [here](#).

■ **World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Call for Registration, 19 November 2009**

The Women's World Summit Foundation is campaigning to prioritize the prevention of abuse and violence against children. Launched in 2000, the World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse (19 November) is intended to create a global culture towards the worldwide prevention of child abuse. For more information on the campaign and how to register, visit the [campaign's website](#).

■ **"The Forgotten Children: A major European Conference addressing the subject of Children of Parents with a Mental Illness", 26 – 27 November 2009, Vilnius, Lithuania**

The European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness (EUFAMI), in association with Lietuvos Sutrikusios Psichikos Žmonių Globos Bendrija (LSPŽGB), its Lithuanian family member association, will host "The Forgotten Children: A major European Conference addressing the subject of Children of Parents with a Mental Illness" from 26 to 27 November 2009 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Details on the conference programme, registration and accommodation arrangements can be found on the [conference website](#).

■ **2009 Parliament of the World's Religions, 3 - 9 December 2009, Assembly Meeting, Melbourne, Australia**

The Parliament of the World's Religions will hold its 2009 assembly from 3 to 9 December 2009 in Melbourne, Australia. The gathering is expected to bring together more than 8,000 people of faith, spirit and goodwill from around the world. For more information about the upcoming 2009 assembly, visit [the Parliament of the World's Religions website](#).

▪ **Campaigns and Initiatives:**

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

Countdown to Copenhagen Campaign
www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=how_adv_copenhagen

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

Global Campaign against Poverty: 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

Launch of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's Human Rights Prize – Call for Nominations: 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

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

Human Rights Nexus – Project by WFUNA www.humanrightsnexus.org

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

First Committee Monitor – Resource on the General Assembly's First Committee on Disarmament and International Security www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/FCM.html

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

2009 UNDP Procurement Training Calendar www.undp.org/procurement/training.shtml

International NGO Journal www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ

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