



Monthly service of UN DESA NGO Branch | CSO Net – csonet.org

Welcome to the UN!

Below is a brief summary of news and upcoming intergovernmental meetings of interest to NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status. For upcoming events, make sure you have registered your organization's participation with the organizer.

News

27 Sept: UN General Assembly closes its General Debate

The General Debate of the General Assembly closed on 27 September. Take an insider's view of the events at UN Headquarters and hear from participants and staff first hand. Visit the "Backstage Buzz" page at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/html/ga2011.shtml> . You can also read the text of all the statements at the General Debate, and search by country or topic, at <http://gadebate.un.org>. Alternatively, if you want to view video any of the statements made during the General Assembly's general debate, or see the side events to the opening of the General Assembly, you can view archived video at <http://un.org/webcast> .

22 Sept: UN calls to 'stem the tide' of racism and intolerance

Ten years after a global conference in Durban, South Africa, sought to uproot all forms of racism, much progress has been made, yet intolerance has actually increased in many parts of the world, top United Nations officials warned today. "The resurgence and persistence of such inhumane attitudes and detrimental practices indicate that we have not done enough to stem the tide," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told a high-level General Assembly meeting held to mark the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the so-called Durban Declaration, the outcome document of the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial

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CHOOSE YOUR LANGUAGE :

ENGLISH

<http://csonet.org/content/documents/lateste.pdf>

AUSSI DISPONIBLE EN FRANÇAIS :

<http://csonet.org/content/documents/latestf.htm>

TAMBIEN DISPONIBLE EN ESPANOL :

<http://csonet.org/content/documents/latests.htm>

Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/durbanmeeting2011/>

21 Sept: World's best forest policies crowned

Rwanda's National Forest Policy was proclaimed the winner of the 2011 Future Policy Award. The Gambia's Community Forest Policy and the US Lacey Act with its amendment of 2008 received the Silver Awards. The three winning policies which most effectively contribute to the conservation and sustainable development of forests for the benefit of current and future generations were announced today at UN Headquarters in New York. <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/forest/best-forest-policies-crowned.html>

16 Sept: MDGs – Time to Deliver

If the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are to be achieved, a serious shortfall in funding must be addressed. This is the stark revelation of the UN's MDG Gap Task Force report, released today in New York. Introducing the report, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon underlined the importance of the report's findings, saying "we cannot afford to leave the poor even further behind."

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/policy/minding-the-gap.html>

More News

19 Sept: UN summit discusses ways to curb death toll from non-communicable diseases

The United Nations heard calls today for an all-out attack on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer and diabetes, with a summit meeting devoted to curbing the factors, like tobacco and alcohol use, behind the often preventable scourge that causes 63 per cent of all deaths. The two-day high-level General Assembly meeting, attended by more than 30 heads of State and Government, and 100 senior ministers and experts, adopted a declaration calling for a multi-pronged campaign by governments, industry and civil society to set up by 2013 the plans needed to curb the risk factors behind the four groups of NCDs – cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes.

http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/en/index.html

12 Sept: ILO/WHO Initiative on Social Protection Floor

Knowing that more than 1.4 billion people still struggle to live on less than \$1.25 a day (World Bank), it is obvious that much more must be done to eradicate the scourge of extreme poverty. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) coordinate the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) as a joint UN effort to build a global coalition committed to supporting countries in building national social protection floors for their citizens. The NGO Committee for Social Development is engaged in an online campaign in support of this initiative.

<http://ngosocdev.net>

7 Sept: Ensuring rights of persons with disabilities benefits all of society

Persons with disabilities must enjoy full human rights and fundamental freedoms and enabling them to do so benefits society as a whole, Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro said today at the opening of the fourth session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD. “When we respect the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities, we enrich our human family,” she stated in her remarks.

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/>

5 Sept: UN-NGO forum urges linking sustainable development with public engagement

The annual joint conference of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concluded today in Bonn, Germany, with calls for civil society to encourage people to realize that their local concerns were connected to the larger global issues. Delegates to the three-day 64th annual conference of the UN and NGOs, organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI), in partnership with the DPI/NGO Executive Committee, Germany and the UN Volunteers (UNV) programme, stressed the need to “connect the dots” between civil society groups dealing with various issues for greater impact on global problems. The theme of this year's conference was “Sustainable Societies Responsive Citizens” and was an opportunity for NGOs and civil society to interact as they prepare for next year's UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Brazil.

www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ngoconference/

Upcoming Events

3 Oct – December: Third Committee of the General Assembly

The Social, Humanitarian Cultural Affairs Committee (Third Committee) of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, is chaired by H.E. Mr. Hussein Hannif of Malaysia. As in previous sessions, an important part of the work of the Committee will focus on the examination of human rights questions. The Committee will hear and interact with 34 such special rapporteurs, independent experts, and chairs of working groups of the Council. Last year, at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Third Committee considered 56 draft resolutions, more than half of which were submitted under the human rights agenda item alone; it is expected to consider a similar number of draft resolutions this year.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/index.shtml>

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More Upcoming Events

3 Oct – December: Second Committee of the General Assembly

The Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee), is chaired by H.E. Mr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen of Bangladesh. During this session, it will deal with issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system, and external debt sustainability), financing for development, sustainable development, human settlements, poverty eradication, globalization and interdependence, operational activities for development, and information and communication technologies for development, among other issues. At the sixty-fifth session, the Second Committee took action on 44 draft proposals. The Committee is expected to act on a similar number of proposals during this year's session.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml>

3 Oct: 2011 Social Forum, Geneva

Mandated by the Human Rights Council's resolution 16/26, the 2011 Social Forum focuses on: the promotion and effective realization of the right to development, in the context of the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development; measures and actions needed to make the right to development a reality for everyone at the local, national, regional and international levels, including the role and contribution of civil society and non-governmental organizations; international assistance and cooperation, as well as the promotion of an enabling environment for the realization of the right to development.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/SForum/Pages/SForum2011.aspx>

4 Oct: Briefing of DPI and ECOSOC NGOs by the General Assembly President

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the 66th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, is inviting representatives of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC or affiliated with DPI for a meeting on Tuesday, 4

October 2011, from 3pm to 5pm, at the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium. The meeting will focus on the issues before the 66th session of the General Assembly, particularly the priority areas that the President mentioned in his opening speech, UN Reform and revitalisation, improving disaster responses, sustainable development and global prosperity as well as the theme of the High-level debate "The role of mediation in the settlement of disputes by peaceful means", followed by a substantive exchange with the NGOs on the key challenges before the United Nations and the role and contribution of civil society in addressing them.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/66/>

6 Oct: International Day of Older Persons

The theme for this year's International Day will be the "Launch of Madrid+10: The Growing Opportunities Challenges of Global Ageing".

<http://social.un.org/index/Ageing.aspx>

17 Oct: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2011

The 2011 Commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) will be held on Monday, 17 October at United Nations Headquarters in New York, focusing on the theme "From Poverty to Sustainability: People at the Centre of Inclusive Development".

<http://social.un.org/index/Poverty/InternationalDayfortheEradicationofPoverty/2011.aspx>

31 Oct: 7 Billion People | 7 Billion Actions

The world's population will top seven billion people in October 2011. This unique moment in human history represents both an achievement and a challenge, and will have an impact on every single person on the planet. A world of seven billion has implications for sustainability, urbanization, access to health services and youth empowerment – however, it also offers a rare call-to-action opportunity to renew global commitment for a healthy and sustainable world. The campaign's key launching activities will take place in September and October, culminating on "7 Billion day" (31st October, 2011).

<http://7billionactions.org/>

For more upcoming events, visit <http://csonet.org>

Looking further ahead...

- 15–16 Dec 2011: Second Intersessional Meeting of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development
<http://www.uncsd2012.org>
- 30 Jan – 8 Feb, and 17 Feb 2012: 2012 Regular session, Committee on NGOs
<http://csonet.org>
- 1–10 Feb 2012: Commission for Social Development, 50th session
<http://social.un.org>
- 27 Feb – 9 March 2012: Commission on the Status of Women, 56th session
www.unwomen.org
- 23–27 April 2012: Commission on Population and Development, 45th session
http://www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/ngopart_45.htm
- 21 – 30 May and 8 June 2012: 2012 Resumed session, Committee on NGOs
<http://csonet.org>
- 4–6 June 2012: United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)
<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

Useful Links

DESA NGO Branch | CSO Net
<http://csonet.org>

NGO Liaison Office, United Nations Office at Geneva
<http://unog.ch/ngo>

UN–NGLS (United Nations Non–Governmental Liaison Service)
<http://www.un-ngls.org>

UN Department of Public Information, NGO Relations
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection>

OHCHR Civil Society Section
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>

OHCHR Civil Society Update Subscription
<http://conta.cc/can6Gf>

At Your Service

How to Apply for Consultative Status
csonet.org/index.php?menu=100

How to Submit a Quadrennial Report
<http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=99>

Committee on NGOs Home Page
<http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=80>

How to obtain a UN Grounds Pass
<http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=86>

Ask a question on my organization's status
<http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=82>

ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31
<http://csonet.org/content/documents/199631.pdf>

Learn how to participate in the work of the United Nations
<http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=113>

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