



Up coming events organized by our partner CONGO

March 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:

■ 76th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 15 February – 12 March 2010, Geneva

The 76th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is ongoing until 12 March 2010 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

“The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by its State parties.

All States parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights are being implemented. States must report initially one year after acceding to the Convention and then every two years. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the State party in the form of “concluding observations”.

More information about the 76th Session is available [here](#).

General information about this Committee is available [here](#).

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

The 13th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council is taking place from 1 to 26 March 2010 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Background documentation and information about webcast during that session are available [here](#).

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

A CoNGO calendar providing an overview of side-events at this session is available [here](#).

If your organisation wishes to announce its side-events in that calendar, please inform [CoNGO’s International Secretariat](#).

Briefing by the Human Rights Council Secretariat

On the occasion of the presentation of the Annual Report by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Council Secretariat is holding a briefing for NGOs. The event will take place on 4 March 2010 at 18:15 hours in Room XXI at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

■ **"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) is being held 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)".

General information about the CSW is available [here](#).

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

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

The CoNGO NGO Committee on the Status of Women (New York) provides in-depth information about this session and NGO participation on its website: www.ngocsw.org.

A comprehensive calendar of parallel events is maintained by that Committee [here](#).

■ **"Congo/Women: Portraits of War and Women on the Frontline", Photo and Video Exhibition on Gender-Based Violence, 4 March 2010, Geneva**

On the occasion of the exhibition "Congo/Women: Portraits of War and Women on the Frontline", the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) is organising an opening event on 4 March 2010 at 18:30 hours at the Galerie des pas perdus at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

More information is available [here](#).

■ **"Partnerships for Women's Health: Striving for Best Practice within the UN Global Compact", UNU-ONY Event, 8 March 2010, New York**

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the United Nations University Office at the UN, New York (UNU-ONY), is organising a panel discussion related to the book entitled "Partnerships for Women's Health: Striving for Best Practices within the UN Global Compact". The event will take place on 8 March 2010 from 13:15 to 14:30 hours at the Institute of International Education KCR Conference Room (12th floor), 809 United Nations Plaza in New York. More information, including a webcast link, 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](#).

■ **"Crisis of Character – Building Corporate Reputation in the Age of Scepticism", UNU-ONY Event, 10 March 2010, New York**

The United Nations University Office at the UN, New York (UNU-ONY), is holding an event entitled "Crisis of Character – Building Corporate Reputation in the Age of Scepticism" on 10 March 2010 from 15:00 to 17:00 hours in Conference Room E, Temporary North Lawn Building, UN HQ in New York.

The event *"is part of the UNU Midday Forum Programme, which offers an intimate and informal platform of discussion to the UN Permanent Missions, the UN Secretariat, UN agencies, academia, NGOs and the private sector, to discuss and exchange ideas and experiences on important topics related to the UN."*

More information, including a webcast link, is available [here](#).

■ **4th High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, 16–17 March 2010, New York**

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 Dialogue will result in a summary by the President of the General Assembly.”

More information is available [here](#).

■ **“The Right to the City – Bridging the Urban Divide”, UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum 5, 22 – 26 March 2010**

The UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) has now opened the registration procedure for its World Urban Forum 5 to take place from 22 to 26 March at Praça Mauá in Rio de Janeiro.

Under the Millennium Development Goals for poverty reduction by the year 2015, governments agreed that these combined with good urban planning, and good governance are the best way forward for a better urban future.”

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

■ **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 programme of this session will be available shortly via 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 a course (in French) on “Bilateral and Multilateral Negotiation: Strategies and Techniques”, which will take place from 12 April to 7 May 2010.

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](#).

■ **"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 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.

For more information, please visit the Forum website:

www.itu.int/ws/implementation/2010/forum/geneva.

■ **Civil Society Events and Announcements:**

■ **"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](#).

■ **2nd Continental Congress on Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR), 2 – 5 March 2010, Oaxaca, Mexico**

The Pan-American Health Organization and the World Health Organization, in coordination with the CBR (community based rehabilitation) Network of the Americas and Caribbean, are conducting the second continental congress on CBR. The event is to take place from 2 to 5 March 2010 in Oaxaca, Mexico.

The mission of the congress is "to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities and to contribute in strengthening the CBR strategy in the Americas and Caribbean, through public policies and by mobilizing resources, technical cooperation and assistance".

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

■ **"A Psychology of Liberation – Psychology Morning at the UN with Dr Philip Zimbardo", 4 March 2010, New York**

An event entitled "A Psychology of Liberation – Psychology Morning at the UN with Dr Philip Zimbardo" is taking place on 4 March 2010 at 8:15 hours in the Conference Room on the 2nd Floor at the Church Center in New York.

"How can scientific psychology best be applied to global issues today, like violence-reduction and social justice? Philip G. Zimbardo of Stanford University will describe his recent book The Lucifer Effect, "A psychology of liberation: confronting evil and time constraints to becoming heroic."

The welcome statement will be delivered by Mr Liberato C. Bautista, CoNGO President.

For more information, please send a message to Mr [Harold Takooshian](#).

■ **"Be Free! Live Free! Health Movement", International Women's Month Programme, 5 March 2010, New York**

"Save Africa Concerts Foundation" and the American Association of University Women are organising an event entitled "Be Free! Live Free! Health Movement" on 5 March 2010 from 19:00 to 21:00 hours at the American Association of University Women NYC, 111 E 37th Street, New York, NY 10016-3041.

The event will focus on women's health issues and HIV/AIDS and include a screening of a movie on women's health. The flyer for the event is available [here](#).

■ **"International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights", 5 – 14 March 2010, Geneva**

The International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) is scheduled from 5 to 14 March 2010 at the Maison des Arts du Grütli in Geneva.

This series of events is to "serve as an "opinion column" or space where ideas are freely expressed and shared. A platform for dialogue between human rights activists, film-makers and members of civil society, the FIFDH denounces attacks on human dignity."

More information is available at www.fifdh.org.

■ **"The United Nations and the European Union: Partners in Multilateralism", Evening Seminar, 8 March 2010, Brussels**

The "Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies" is holding an evening seminar entitled "The United Nations and the European Union: Partners in Multilateralism" on 8 March 2010 from 18:00 to 19:30 hours in the Jean Durieux Room at the Charlemagne Building, Rue de la Loi 170, in Brussels. More information will be available soon at www.ggs.kuleuven.be.

■ **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.

■ **“Human Security in the Arab World: Defining a Role for Europe”, DPF “Future World” Lunch Debate, 9 March 2010, Brussels**

The Development Policy Forum (DPF) – a partnership between “Friends of Europe”, the World Bank, the United Nations and others – is organising a “Future World” lunch debate entitled “Human Security in the Arab World: Defining a Role for Europe” on 9 March 2010 from 12:30 to 14:40 hours at the Bibliothèque Solvay in Brussels.

“The 2009 Arab Human Development Report focused on human security in the Arab world. Is the focal point of security really shifting from the state to the individual? What reforms can we make in terms of policy, and in terms of action, to incorporate this changing perspective? How can we explain and spread this concept, while still accounting for regional differences in perspective and experience? Does the responsibility for human security lie with the Arab States themselves? Or is there a role for the EU and other external actors? And if so, what should this role be?”

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

■ **“Autochtones Sacrifiés en France : Situation du peuple Wayana de Guyane”, Evening Lecture with Testimonies, 9 March 2010, Geneva**

CETIM – Centre Europe-Tiers Monde is organising an evening lecture with testimonies entitled “Autochtones Sacrifiés en France : Situation du peuple Wayana de Guyane” (Indigenous Peoples Sacrificed in France: The Situation of the Wayana People of Guyana). The event is scheduled on 9 March 2010 at 18:30 hours at the Maison des Associations, Rue des Savoises, in Geneva. More information is available [here](#).

■ **“Undocumented Migrants and the Stockholm Programme Assuring Access to Rights?”, Conference, 9 March 2010, Brussels**

The Centre for European Policy Study (CEPS) is organising a conference entitled “Undocumented Migrants and the Stockholm Programme Assuring Access to Rights?” on 9 March 2010 from 9:00 to 18:00 hours in the Conference Room of its premises at Place du Congrès 1 in Brussels.

“This event aims at opening up the debate on the status and rights of undocumented migrants in the EU among policy makers, practitioners, civil society and social partners.”

More information is available [here](#).

■ **“Innovation for the Empowerment of Citizens”, Symposium on Technologies for Social Action, 10 – 11 March 2010, Málaga, Spain**

“Fundación Cibervoluntarios” is holding a Symposium on technologies for social action on 10 and 11 March 2010 at the Echegaray Theatre in Málaga, Spain.

The main goal of the event is “to encourage, foster and adapt the use of new technologies for social action and citizen empowerment.”

More information about this event is available at www.e-stas.org.

■ **“Yearly Lecture Dedicated to Sergio Vieira de Mello’s Memory”, 11 March 2010, Geneva**

The Human Rights Commission of the International Union of Notaries and the Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation are organising the “Yearly Lecture Dedicated to Sergio Vieira de Mello’s Memory” on 11 March 2010 at 17:15 hours in Room 1 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva (CICG). The keynote speaker will be Mr Bernard Koucher, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of France.

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

■ **European-wide Action Week against Racism, 13 – 21 March 2010**

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (21 March), "UNITED" is coordinating a European-wide action week against racism from 13 to 21 March 2010.

The event is to "highlight the issues of racism from a non-governmental perspective on all levels - local, national and European."

For more information and to order campaign material, please visit www.unitedagainstracism.org.

■ **"How to Ensure the Success of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference", Public Discussion, 16 March 2010, Geneva**

The Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) is holding a public discussion on 16 March 2010 from 12:30 to 14:00 hours in the Sergio Vieira de Mello Auditorium at the organisation's premises in Geneva.

More information, including registration details, 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.

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

■ **Presentation of the Book "Alcohol, No Ordinary Commodity", 20 April 2010, Geneva**

The Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA) is organising 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 at 14:00 hours at the CoNGO Conference Room, Avenue de la Paix 11, Geneva.

■ **"Incitement to Hatred vs. Freedom of Expression: Challenges of Combating Hate Crimes Motivated by Hate on the Internet", Expert Meeting, 22 March 2010, Warsaw**

The "Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights" is organising an expert meeting entitled "Incitement to Hatred vs. Freedom of Expression: Challenges of Combating Hate Crimes Motivated by Hate on the Internet" on 22 March 2010 from 9:30 to 17:30 hours at the Sheraton Hotel, Ul. B. Prusa 2, in Warsaw. The invitation and programme are available [here](#).

■ **"Financing Europe's Energy Needs and Climate Action in the 21st Century", High-Level Conference on Climate Action, Energy Security and the Financial Sector, 24 March 2010, Brussels**

Organised by "Forum Europe", a high-level conference on climate action, energy security and the financial sector is scheduled on 24 March 2010 from 8:30 to 14:30 hours at "La Bibliothèque Solvay" in Brussels. More information about this conference is available [here](#).

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

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.

▪ **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](#).

▪ **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.

▪ **“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.

▪ **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