



12 November 2010

64TH ANNUAL UN DPI/NGO CONFERENCE (BONN, GERMANY, 3-5 SEPTEMBER 2011)

INFORMATION SHEET #1

Background of the UN DPI/NGO Conference

The 64th Annual United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) / Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Conference will be held in Bonn, Germany, from Saturday, 3 September, to Monday, 5 September 2011. The title of the Conference is “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens”.

Felix Dodds, Executive Director, Stakeholder Forum for Sustainable Future, has been appointed Chair of the Conference. During the months of planning leading to the opening of the Conference, Mr. Dodds will serve as Co-Chair of the Conference Planning Committee along with Maria-Luisa Chávez, Chief of NGO Relations.

This will be the fourth time the Conference will be held outside UN Headquarters in New York.

Paris, France, 2008

The first Conference outside New York was held in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris and was titled: “Reaffirming Human Rights for All: The Universal Declaration at 60”. More than 1,100 participants representing 65 countries from 461 NGOs affiliated with DPI, ECOSOC, UNESCO and working with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) joined the 2008 Conference to share knowledge, and experience, on how best to promote and contribute to the advancement of human rights around the world.

Mexico City, Mexico, 2009

The second Conference “on the road” was held in Mexico City, 9-11 September 2009, titled: “For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!” Over 1,300 participants representing 55 countries from 340 NGOs attended the three-day deliberations. The Conference attracted a wide range of experts in the fields of nuclear disarmament, and conventional arms regulation, who shared their expertise with NGOs in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, four roundtables, two

breakout sessions and 24 NGO-organized Workshops. **The participants adopted a Declaration on Disarming for Peace and Development which, in an historic move, was submitted as an official document of the Security Council Nuclear Disarmament Summit (22 September 2009) and the General Assembly (5 October 2009) by the Government of Mexico.**

Melbourne, Australia, 2010

The third Conference outside New York was held in Melbourne, Australia, 30 August to 1 September, 2010. It was titled “Advance Global Health: Achieve the MDGs”. The Conference attracted 1,731 participants, from 260 NGOs and 70 countries, as well as representatives of academia, media, the UN system and Member States. It was organized by DPI/NGO Relations, the Australian Government and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee. The Conference featured experts in global health addressing the Opening and Closing ceremonies, four Roundtables on how NGOs can participate in achieving the MDGS, more than 50 NGO-organized workshops, and 50 NGO exhibits, including a Youth MDG Village. **The attendees adopted a Declaration, which was submitted by the Australian Government to the President of the General Assembly and was issued as an official document, A/65/525 on 19 October 2010.**

The Future ...

Bonn, Germany, 2011

A city with a 2,000-year history, Bonn is situated on the Rhine and is Germany’s 19th largest city. It is the birthplace of Ludwig von Beethoven and today is regarded as an international metropolis and Germany’s UN City. The UN staff in Bonn numbers more than 800. Additionally, 150 UN non-government organizations, working predominantly in the fields of development, cooperation, environment, peace and conflict resolution, are based in Bonn. Six Federal ministries and numerous Federal authorities also have their seats in the city. Bonn is a sought-after conference venue and can offer a very conducive environment for the premier UN DPI/NGO event for global civil society.

Objective

The objective of the Conference “on the road” is to diversify and increase the geographical representation of NGOs associated with the Department of Public Information, as well as focus on the work of NGOs in that region. As a result of DPI’s recently revised policy, whereby priority is given to associating NGOs based in the region hosting the Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference, the new additions have contributed to solidifying the trend of increasing geographic diversity among the non-governmental organizations affiliated with DPI.

Consequently, the NGOs associated with DPI from Latin America and the Caribbean increased in 2009. Forty-three non-governmental organizations based in Mexico were newly associated in time for the Conference, and more than three-quarters of the attendees at the Conference also hailed from the region.

In 2010, NGOs from the Asia-Pacific region were given priority in associating with the DPI in advance of the Conference. As a result, in addition to the 62 newly associated NGOs, DPI/NGO Relations associated 41 NGOs in the Asia-Pacific region, including: Australia – 32, Fiji – 1, Philippines – 5, Tonga – 1, Vanuatu – 1.

This revised policy has proven to be an effective way to reach out to those NGOs and members of the civil society, who, otherwise, would not be able to attend the Conference, or become involved with the DPI/NGO community.

UN Information Centres play an instrumental role in assisting with the mobilization of NGOs.

Association 2011

As we take the Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference to Bonn, we would like to concentrate our attention for prospective NGOs interested in association with DPI in Western and Eastern Europe. We encourage NGOs in that region to contact their nearest UNIC for association information. This does not preclude any other interested NGO from other regions to apply for association through their UNICs. For further information, please the DPI/NGO website at: <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/application-pro.asp>

Title of 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference

SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES; RESPONSIVE CITIZENS

Visual Identity

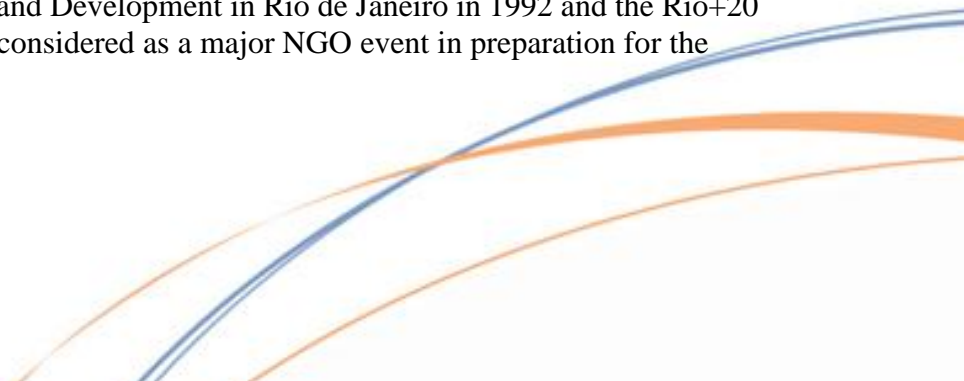
A Visual Identity is being designed by the Graphic Design Unit of the Outreach Division, DPI.

Partners

United Nations Department of Public Information (UN DPI)
NGO/DPI Executive Committee
United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
City of Bonn, Germany
Government of Germany

Concept

The title revolves around citizen and NGO involvement in creating and maintaining various aspects of sustainable societies for the benefit of mankind and the planet: economical, cultural and environmental. Some subthemes could be environmental sustainability, green manufacturing and commerce, transparent governance, grassroots activism, and limiting personal carbon footprints. The 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference could serve as a bridge between the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the Rio+20 Conference in 2012. It could also be considered as a major NGO event in preparation for the Rio+20 Conference.



Participants will include representatives of NGOs, academia, civil society organizations, grassroots constituencies, media, Member States, private sector UN System and other significant stakeholders.

The Conference will also provide:

- A valuable network-building opportunity.
- Opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences between the NGOs, diverse experts, and organizations working on sustainable societies.
- Approaches to enhance their activities through participation in:
 - Roundtable discussions
 - Interactive dialogues
 - Workshops
 - Other activities

Preliminary Programme of the Conference

- Opening Session
- Roundtables
- Workshops
- Closing Session

Workshops

The Workshops provide valuable opportunities for NGOs to interact and discuss in greater depth, in an informal setting, various issues related to the Conference theme with an emphasis on effective practices that participating NGOs can take home and implement.

Workshops are organized by and for NGOs and allow for closer examination, in small informal settings, issues addressed in the plenary and roundtable sessions. Workshops are no more than 90 minutes in length. This format enables maximum interaction between presenters and participants. It is recommended that presenters be limited to one moderator and two or three panelists, with each panelist making a presentation that does not exceed 15 minutes, in order to allow sufficient time for an dialogue with workshop participants. The suggested number of workshops is 20-30 maximum, depending on venue availability in the host country.

Special Events

- a. Events
- b. Exhibits
- c. Networking opportunities

Media

- a. UN Media, Mainstream Media, Student Journalists
- b. Press Releases
- c. News
- d. Radio
- e. Live Webcast

Conference Website

- Conference Website is in the process of being designed.