

53rd Annual DPI/NGO Conference

**FINAL REPORT**  
**MIDDAY NGO WORKSHOPS**  
**SUMMARIES**

**Global Solidarity:**  
**The Way to Peace and**  
**International Cooperation**

28-30 August 2000  
United Nations, New York

Organized by  
the United Nations Department of Public Information  
in cooperation with  
the NGO/DPI Executive Committee

**Global Solidarity:  
The Way to Peace and International Cooperation**  
**MIDDAY NGO WORKSHOP SUMMARIES**

**Monday, 28 August 2000**

The Midday NGO Workshops were organized independently by representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) associated with the Department of Public Information (DPI).

**GLOBALIZATION OF MILITARISM**

**Sponsored by:** Hague Appeal for Peace

**Moderator :** Margaret Melkonian, Hague Appeal for Peace 1999

**Speaker s:** Felicity Hill, Director, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
Sia Mian, Center for Energy and Environmental Studies, Princeton University  
Steven Staples, Chair, International Network on Disarmament and Globalization  
Peter Weiss, President, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA)

**Participants :** Approximately 75

Panel members defined globalization in the context of peace, disarmament and human security. Felicity Hill described how economic globalization can fuel conflict and how it protects the military industrial, academic, bureaucratic, cultural and media complexes. Steven Staples described globalization as a threat to peace and disarmament, promoting military spending for corporate subsidies and other non-defence functions. Security forces and militaries will be required to suppress dissent arising from globalization and defend the economic interests of industrialized countries. Peter Weiss defined globalization as global solidarity of the wrong kind, saying that a major problem is the sale of over \$11 billion dollars in United States arms to developing countries, which has fuelled global militarism. Sia Mian offered a brief history of the globalization of militarism by the United States, beginning after the Second World War. He compared United States actions over the past 40 years to British colonialism. Speakers concluded that the consequences of globalization are increasing militarism, the growing gap between

the rich and the poor, NATO expansion, the arms trade and deployment of military forces. Current policies undermine human security, support military over civilian economies and require oppressive force to impose civil and international order while protecting the interests and investments of transnational corporations, they said.

**ADDRESSING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES**

**Sponsored by:** The Open Center of New York

**Moderator :** J. P. Harpignes, Program Consultant, The Open Center of New York

**Speaker s:** Liz Martin, Natural Resources Defense Council  
Alex Perera, Natural Resources Defense Council  
Carol Rosen, Editor-in-Chief, *World Resources* report, World Resources International

**Participants :** Approximately 30

Carol Rosen spoke about the Millennium Ecosystem Summit and its goal to implement up-to-date policy-making procedures. She urged the audience to take a bigger view, to be better informed, to develop values and to encourage dialogue with the local community in order to achieve environmental goals. In the Millennium Ecosystem Summit, "NGOs will monitor and will be auditors," she said. Alex Perera spoke about global warming, sea-level rise, floods, infectious diseases and ecosystems. Corporations that have energy-efficient and environmentally friendly buildings should receive an investment tax credit so that "they can operate better to protect the environment". More efficient equipment reduces energy consumption and pollution. "We must enforce new policies to promote energy efficiency, reduce emissions and create jobs in new industries," he said. Liz Martin urged people to think about global warming globally but to act locally.

“Start a public campaign to reach a larger audience, influence a State, make it a priority for Governments and prove that global warming is affecting us,” she said.

#### HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATION

**Sponsored by:** World Information Transfer

**Moderator :** Christine Durbak, Founder and Chair, World Information Transfer

**Speaker s:** Mark Robson, Executive Director, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey  
Claudia Strauss, Director, World Information Transfer

**Participants :** Approximately 40

Mark Robson explained that health issues must be addressed by providing a framework behind statistical numbers. He suggested that the public needs to be informed who is at risk, at what level, at what probability and when. Furthermore, he warned, unemployment and a lack of education are the most serious threats to public health.

Claudia Strauss stressed in her presentation the positive effects of new information technology, like the Internet, on health issues. It is now much easier to share information at a much faster pace than before. This offers new possibilities in promoting health issues globally, she said. In conclusion, both speakers and the audience agreed that education and access to new information technology have to be the main goal in promoting health issues around the world.

#### PROMOTING THE GLOBAL COMPACT IN THE YEAR 2000

**Sponsored by:** The Resource Center for the United Nations, San Francisco

**Moderator :** Rosemary Van der Laan, President, Board of Directors, Resource Center for the United Nations

**Speaker s:** Professor Ved Nanda, Vice Provost and Director of the International Legal Studies Program, University of Denver, Board Member UNA-USA  
Paul Underwood, Vice President and Director of Programs, Business Council for the United Nations, Division of UNA-USA

**Participants :** Approximately 80

In July 2000, over 50 multinational companies and 12 labour organizations publicly stated their support for the Global Compact, a proposal by United Nations Secretary-

General Kofi Annan, which brings public and private enterprise closer to the Organization. According to Paul Underwood, business is a major player on the global stage and needs to be invited to work with the United Nations to address many common-interest issues, for example, the digital divide. Focusing on how the Global Compact might be implemented, Ved Nanda said that voluntary codes of conduct would not work and that many host countries do nothing. It would be up to NGOs to fill that gap by monitoring the conduct of companies and issuing complaints as needed. Another issue raised was that of accountability and transparency with respect to adhering to the principles of the Global Compact. The panel suggested that the Council on Economic Priorities Accreditation Agency with its mission might enable organizations to be socially accountable. Another issue was that of consumer education, which could promote good corporate conduct. Other statements focused on encouraging companies to sign up for the Global Compact, and working with national chambers of commerce to ease communications with companies.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS : A FOUNDATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Moderator :** Jack Hammond, Hunter College, New York

**Speaker s:** Alejandro Queral, Director, Human Rights and Environment Campaign, Sierra Club  
Lesley Carson, Director, Forefront human rights group  
María Herminia Graterol Garrido, legal activist, Venezuela

**Participants :** Approximately 75

Speakers discussed the interfaces between human rights, environment and sustainable development. They explored the right to development from a minority perspective, education from a holistic perspective, and the need to combine human rights and the environment. They agreed that the concept of human rights can be examined by perspectives on development and environmental protection. Development involves allowing people to use their resources as they protect their environment. Lesley Carson discussed grass-roots activists at the front lines of communities seeking a holistic approach to development. Human rights groups know what needs to be done and her organization helps them by being supportive, providing resources, training, contacts, information or protection to create sustainable and effective programmes. Alejandro Queral proposed educating members by linking human rights and environmental issues. María Graterol Garrido explained human rights, especially in relation to racism. Through education, a new vision can be implemented for human rights and a sustainable environment, she said.

#### ECONOMY OF COMMUNION

**Sponsored by:** The New Humanity

**Moderator :** Joseph Klock, United States

**Speaker s:** Leo Andringa, New Humanity, the Netherlands  
Ursula Lulley, Delegate, Focolare Movement, New York  
Senator Ivo Tarolli, Italy

**Participants :** Approximately 50

The panel presented a picture of the new economic initiative “Economy of Community”, begun in 1991 in Brazil by Chiara Lubichin, founder of New Humanity Focolare, which has now spread around the world. Ursula Lulley explained the “Economy of Sharing Project”, where groups set aside part of their profits to share with those who are without, and help promote businesses with consumers, suppliers, and competition with local and international communities. Some 700 companies worldwide participate in this project. Leo Andringa discussed the Tobin tax proposal. While taxing financial transfers sounds attractive at first, there are a number of serious challenges to this approach, including how to make the programme international and how to prevent tax evasion by financial institutions. Senator Tarolli discussed the need for debt relief for poor countries. He said that debt is currently choking Africa and Latin America and they are spending little on education, health care and economic development. Italy has passed a law for partial forgiveness of debt up to \$6 billion and wants to help poor countries develop. Italy is also redefining its aid and development programmes. Governments, UN agencies, religious institutions, NGOs and private citizens must be involved in new collaborations to create a more stable world economy.

#### SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICA : A CALL FOR MORE ACTION

**Sponsored by:** The International Club for Peace Research

**Moderator :** Pierre Zemele, Research Fellow, HIV/AIDS Program, University of Yaoundé, Cameroon

**Speaker s:** Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith, African Services Committee Inc., Bellevue Hospital Center, New York  
Ruth Bamela Engo-Tjega, African Action on AIDS  
Ambassador Monthe Tomo, Committee for Program and Coordination, Economic and Social Council, United Nations

**Participants :** Approximately 50

Ambassador Tomo suggested that “Africa should be a priority area, second only to women and drugs”. Pierre

Zemele discussed the biological factors of AIDS. He explained that HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) attacks T-lymphocytes (or cells), which control the immune system. Since HIV is so powerful, an infected T-cell is unable to fight off even a common cold. Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith spoke of the prominence of AIDS in Africa. She explained that 85 per cent of AIDS-infected people live in Africa, and in sub-Saharan Africa children as young as five are becoming infected through heterosexual intercourse. Ruth Bamela Engo-Tjega discussed her NGO’s outreach programme for AIDS orphans. Its focus is to keep children off the street by matching the orphans with sages who are compassionate mentors. Pierre Zemele recalled that only 2 per cent of pregnant women in Africa could afford health care. The audience raised questions on the continuing practice of enslaving women and children in Mauritania, and on racial persecution of some NGOs in African countries.

#### WOMEN, PEACE AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL

**Sponsored by:** The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom

**Moderator :** Isha Dyfan, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom

**Speaker s:** Charlotte Bunch, Executive Director of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership  
Rhonda Copelon, International Women’s Human Rights Law Clinic  
Betty Reardon, International Institute for Peace Education

**Participants :** Approximately 55

According to Isha Dyfan, the Security Council recognizes that women must be involved in the decision-making process. Charlotte Bunch stressed that women do not need to provide evidence as to why they should be present at the Security Council because it is a question of democracy. She added that they should be there in numbers that are representative of their population. Rhonda Copelon focused on the role of the International Criminal Court in acknowledging women before, during and after war. Betty Reardon addressed the link between the war system and gender equality. She stated that “the full equality of women cannot be realized in the war system, and the war system cannot be overcome without the full equality of women”. She also stated that there will not be peace without peace education, which is not possible unless there are core changes in general education. Rhonda Copelon, responding to what women in the United States can do for women in Afghanistan, said that women in positions of power are obligated to voice for the powerless, and teach them how to voice for themselves.

**HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION :  
ROLES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ; BUILDING BRIDGES  
THROUGH GLOBAL PEACE**

**Sponsored by :** The International Association of Sufism  
**Moderator :** Arife Ellen Hammerle, Women of Sufism  
**Speaker s:** Nahid Angha, Co-Director and Co-Founder of the International Association of Sufism  
 Jonathan Granoff (Ahamed Muhaiyaddeen), Secretary, Society for Interreligious Intercultural Dialogue  
 Sonia Gilbert, President, Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship, humanitarian service worker  
 Nina Meyerhof, Children of the Earth  
**Participants :** Approximately 30

Nahid Angha noted that the label of “human rights” is often used to disguise core financial issues and that peace efforts fail when the true causes of a conflict are not under-

stood. Therefore, an NGO’s vast knowledge and expediency are crucial in building peace during a conflict. Jonathan Granoff commented that humanitarian intervention pits the sovereignty of independent States against the protection of human rights. He said that civilians have become the targets of deliberate attack. A Standing Conflict Prevention Committee has been proposed. NGOs must work to articulate acceptable intervention standards.

Sonia Gilbert said that a failed peace attempt must be analysed for its true intention and originating level of wisdom. Resolutions fail when they are proposed without understanding the conflict or the culture of the people involved. NGOs can work effectively, looking into conflicts and offering applicable solutions. Nina Meyerhof suggested going beyond superficial layers to see all as one. Spirituality gives meaning to all aspects of life and is the key to lasting global peace; human rights will naturally follow. Responding to a question on how civil society can best serve peace interests, the panel suggested vigilant monitoring and proposing practical resolutions to conflicts.

**Tuesday, 29 August 2000**

**CIVIL SOCIETY AND  
THE NEW DEMOCRATIC DIPLOMACY**

**Sponsored by :** Hague Appeal for Peace  
**Moderator :** Cora Weiss, President of Hague Appeal for Peace  
**Speaker s:** Anwarul Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations  
 Noleen Heyzer, Executive Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)  
 William Pace, Convener, NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court (ICC)  
**Participants :** Approximately 195

Cora Weiss stated that there must be a working partnership between government, the United Nations and civil society where both women and men are present at the discussions. Ambassador Chowdhury said that international organizations play a key role in the global agenda, as do people. All actors must be present in all efforts. There should be established seats for NGOs at ECOSOC and other conferences. The goal is a culture of peace in which the human mind is free of intolerance and hate, and children learn virtues and values. Noleen Heyzer said UNIFEM is dedicated to building a new kind of leadership that is based on power with and within, instead of power over, because power

shared is not power halved, it is power doubled. Bill Pace said government representatives and the private sector should understand the rights and privileges of NGOs. Ambassador Chowdhury was asked to give the Hague Agenda to all the heads of State for a second time, at the Millennium Summit.

**GLOBAL COMMUNITY :  
THE EARTH AND HER CHILDREN**

**Sponsored by :** The Center for International Cooperation  
**Moderator :** Patricia Jepsen Chuse, President and Founder, University of Melchizedek Center for International Cooperation  
**Speaker s:** Noel Brown, International Steering Council, York University Institute for Leadership Development  
 Tana Herbert, Co-Founder/Executive Director, Wildlife Awareness Foundation  
 Oren R. Lyons, Traditional Chief of the Onondaga Nation, Iroquois Confederacy  
 Marilyn Mosley, President, Global 500 Environmental Forum  
 Phillipa (Pippa) Baker-Rabe, age 12, speaking for the child  
**Participants :** Approximately 125

Twelve-year-old Phillipa (Pippa) Baker-Rabe said that by soliciting correspondence from children around the world

she found that her generation’s vision was to achieve world peace and to protect the earth. She said that respect is the solution and that children want to help, but need to be taught how. Marilyn Mosley stated that, rather than centre on strict content, educators should focus on developing multifaceted, independent thinkers. Tana Herbert said she was raised with 1,800 exotic animals and learned from them how to be human. Successful relationships with all living creatures incorporate patience, love, understanding and mutual respect. The Wildlife Awareness Foundation has started to educate people about animals and promote understanding. Noel Brown said he is committed to finding more opportunities to involve and listen to children. He suggested that youth versions of important global documents be produced. Chief Oren R. Lyons said Iroquois leaders evaluate what impact their decisions will have on future generations. He warned that while the ice is melting in the north, the fires are raging in the west. This is nature’s power, bringing balance. If humans don’t take restorative action soon, the earth will restore balance on her own terms.

**WOMEN AND COMMUNICATION**

**Sponsored by :** World Information Transfer  
**Speaker s:** Christine K. Durbak, Chair and CEO, World Information Transfer  
 Michael Loots, Director, Humanity Libraries Project  
 Claudia Strauss, Director, World Information Transfer  
**Participants :** Approximately 70

Claudia Strauss presented an overview of the importance of women in teaching communication within the family. However, in many cultures women are not treated equally within the family. These inequalities between men and women need to be addressed. Michael Loots noted that only 10 per cent of people in developing countries who want to attend university can do so. He suggested that NGOs provide information in developing countries by creating digital libraries on the Internet and on CD-ROMs in various languages. These libraries can provide information on health, education, violence, legal issues and other topics. Most people do not have access to computers, so there is a need for cyber-cafes and other public access locations. Christine Durbak noted that more than half of the 300 million Internet users are women. Internet use is expanding rapidly in developing countries. She suggested that communication via information technology is perhaps the best way for women to achieve equality, the Internet providing a place for women to meet, chat and gain support. Women can learn to speak their

mind and learn to take more risks to gain their rightful equality with men.

**NEW VISIONS , NEW STRUCTURES :  
BUILDING ON OUR VALUES**

**Sponsored by :** The Values Caucus  
**Speaker s:** Martha Gallahue, National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union  
 Patrick McNamara, Association of World Citizens  
 Jerry Spivack, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations  
 Carol Zinn, Global Education Associates  
**Participants :** Approximately 30

In this interactive workshop, the goal was to build on inspiration and passion as the attendees worked together to create a shared sense of mission with everyone committed to a better world and to a United Nations ready for the twenty-first century. Speakers noted that without commitment to shared values, humanity will continue to live under the threat of war, subsistent standards of living, and depletion of the natural resources of an endangered planet. The values of joy, harmony and reverence were explored. Joy is the ability to express the inner essence and individuality each of us brings to any given aspect of our lives. Harmony is the capacity for diversity, difference and complexity existing together and complementing one another. Reverence is defined as the yearning for community, collaboration and interdependence. Through the “Appreciative Inquiry” method, the people in the workshop were able to build on what works well for them in their particular NGO. The method is a capacity-building approach that helps organizations, communities and groups look at current successes and generate knowledge to expand future possibilities.

**ACTIONS TO OVERCOME THE LIMITS TO  
GLOBAL SOLIDARITY**

Summary not available

**SHARING GOALS FOR ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Summary not available

### MICRO-FINANCE IN POST-DISASTER AND POST-CONFLICT

**Sponsored by:** The Trickle Up Program

**Moderator:** Laura Lopez, Deputy Director, Trickle Up Program

**Speakers:** David Larson, Assistant Director, Micro-Enterprise Development, World Relief  
Geetha Nagarajan, Program Manager, MicroBanking Standards Project  
Marinke van Riet, Program Officer for Africa, Trickle Up Program

**Participants:** Approximately 50

David Larson said that aid for micro-enterprise development will make a significant and lasting change as opposed to handouts. As a result, more people will actually enjoy an improvement in their living conditions. Geetha Nagarajan focused on the financial impact of disasters by micro-finance institutions (MFIs). As a result of a decline in inflows from clients and increased demand for outflows to them, MFIs will suffer a temporary liquidity crisis, she said, recommending the establishment of reserve funds in advance of future disasters. This should enable the MFIs to provide relief loans rapidly following a disaster. Explaining the Trickle Up approach, Marinke van Riet said that unlike microcredit providers, Trickle Up does not give loans, but awards conditional grants, which are used by clients to start small businesses. Trickle Up provides capital and includes a business-training component that can contribute to enterprise sustainability. Trickle Up targets the poorest people and is partner to many local NGOs.

### GLOBAL MEETING OF GENERATIONS

Summary not available

### ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

#### THE WAY TO GLOBAL PEACE AND COOPERATION

**Moderator:** Sally Fisher, Director, V-Day Worldwide Initiative; Founder, Northern Lights Alternatives

**Speakers:** Eve Ensler, playwright, actor, author of *The Vagina Monologues* and *Necessary Targets*  
Donna Ferrato, photographer  
Hazelle Goodman, actor, writer  
Ruchira Gupta, film-maker, *The Selling of Innocence*

**Participants:** Approximately 100

In her opening remarks, Sally Fisher said, "Solidarity is not possible unless violence against women ends." Eve Ensler compared feminism in two different places—Beverly Hills and Afghanistan. She contrasted scenes she had recently seen in

Afghanistan, where women are oppressed and tortured by totalitarian rule, with the huge market for plastic surgery in Beverly Hills. Ruchira Gupta, originally from South Asia, spoke about young Nepalese girls, who, because of their gender, are organized into groups of prostitutes, sent to Bombay, and then beaten and raped repeatedly. Hazelle Goodman read a piece from *The Vagina Monologues* depicting the sexual assault of a Bosnian woman during the war by opposing soldiers. During the discussion the panellists became engaged with a young man in the audience who said he would like to educate young men to prevent future atrocities against women.

### PREVENTING GLOBAL VIOLENCE

**Moderator:** Barry Weisberg, Director, Violence Prevention Peace Promotion Strategy, Chicago

**Speakers:** Mayra Buvinic, Chief, Social Development Division, and Special Adviser on Violence, Inter-American Development Bank  
Roxanna Carrillo, Human Rights Adviser, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), New York  
Alec Fyfe, Special Senior Adviser for the protection of children, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), New York  
Rashmi Mayur, Director, International Institute for Sustainable Future, Bombay, India

**Participants:** Approximately 70

Speakers surveyed conditions of global violence, family violence and genocide, offering proposals for prevention by Governments, NGOs and the United Nations. Barry Weisberg described ways to understand global violence and prevent it. He discussed the need to deal with values, attitudes, behaviours and infrastructures that perpetuate violence as well as those that promote peace. Alec Fyfe focused on violence against children during war and in peacetime. He said that child abuse is increasing and occurs in armed conflicts, at institutions, in the home and on the street. He noted that a special session of the General Assembly on children's issues is slated for September 2001. Roxanna Carrillo stated that people's understanding of violence is inadequate. She said better strategies are needed, resources are limited and the value of women in communities needs to be addressed. Rashmi Mayur gave a regional view of violence, pointing out that India had produced 15 nuclear bombs while children starved. Mayra Buvinic discussed the magnitude of violence in Latin America, the course it takes and its costs and solutions. She said that her bank had given peaceful coexistence loans to countries to combat street and domestic violence.

### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION , CHILDREN AND MASS MEDIA

**Sponsored by:** Comunicación Cultural

**Moderator:** Jonathan Marks

**Speakers:** Eugenia Elizalde Iglesias, International Affairs Responsible  
Shamina Gonzaga Kazan, Main Representative, Comunicación Cultural

**Participants:** Approximately 20

Shamina Gonzaga Kazan referred to various organizations, including the United Nations and its associated NGOs, which are being urged to reach out to youth and to allow them to take part in their activities. She said that young people com-

## Wednesday, 30 August 2000

### UNITED NATIONS AFFILIATION

Summary not available

### RECOGNIZING THE INDIGENOUS TRADITION AND PERSPECTIVE AS A WAY TO GLOBAL PEACE AND COOPERATION

**Sponsored by:** The Temple of Understanding and Tribal Link Foundation

**Moderator:** Barbara Pile

**Speakers:** Sam Beeler, Keetowah Society  
Tanya Gonnella Frichner, President and Founder of the American Indian Law Alliance, Onondaga Nation  
Ray Evans Harrell, Medicine Priest, Keetowah Society  
Orvil Looking Horse, Chief, 19th Generation Keeper of the White Buffalo Calf Pipe  
Sammy Toineeta, National Council of Churches Racial Justice Office, Lakota woman

**Participants:** Approximately 63

Sam Beeler recalled that Native Americans were forbidden to congregate and worship until 1978, when the American Indian Religious Freedom Act was passed. He said it is necessary to pray for those who do not understand you. Tanya Gonnella Frichner acknowledged that participatory democracy begins in tribes and recognizes that peace among many nations is possible, adding that it is essential that indigenous peoples be present at the World Conference against Racism in South Africa in 2001, and that the United Nations must approve a declaration on indigenous peoples. Ray Evans Harrell talked about the seven sacred ceremonies with detailed

prise a substantial percentage of the world's population that is not represented in the media and is virtually ignored. Youth appear in the media only as celebrities lecturing young people on what they should be doing or in gruesome school shootings, setting bad examples. Eugenia Elizalde Iglesias said civil society must have a global strategy and start paying attention to the mass media, which, with proper motivation, can be a determining factor in uniting the world and promoting the defence and protection of children. Speakers distributed written questions to the audience including: Are all youth targeted in the same way? Is there a youth culture? Do young people from different backgrounds react in different ways to the media? And how can youth become involved, use the tools at hand, have an impact on the media and have a voice?

reference to the atonement ceremony in which two people pledge to understand each other. Chief Orvil Looking Horse opened the discussion with a prayer in his native tongue and English. He said the work of the Lakota Sioux Nation is dedicated to world peace, and through their ceremonies change will come. Sammy Toineeta expressed contempt for the boarding school she was forced to attend and the reservation on which she was forced to live. However, she acknowledged that the isolation of these places helped preserve her language and spiritual rituals. Ms. Toineeta wondered why groups such as environmentalists are more concerned with endangered species than with endangered peoples and cultures.

### PRODUCTIVE AGEING

**Sponsored by:** Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS)

**Moderator:** Andres Castellanos, Co-Chairman, AFICS (NY) Committee on NGO Relations and Information, and member of the United Nations Panel of Counsel

**Speakers:** Romen Basu, Author  
Virginia Hazzard, AFICS  
Richard Nottidge, FAFICS  
Helen Geffen Roht, Chair, AFICS (NY) Committee on Aging, Consultant

**Commentator:** Stafford Mousky, International Planned Parenthood Federation

**Participants:** Approximately 20

Speakers addressed such issues as self-esteem, productive ageing, social contribution and advocacy in support of the goals and programmes of the United Nations system. Virginia Hazzard spoke about the increasing number of people globally who are over the age of 60. She said that because

of advances in technology and nutrition, people are enjoying a longer life. Helen Geffen Roht discussed the difficulties that older people have keeping up with technology and the importance of the work of the Association of Former International Civil Servants. Romen Basu discussed his years of service with the United Nations, saying that it is critical to stay involved with civil society. Stafford Mousky gave statistics on the number of people who will be retiring over the next 25 years and the need to change the way ageing is viewed. Productive ageing involves looking differently at people who are older and opening up to new ways of perceiving, valuing and ordering reality. Richard Nottidge spoke about the work of the AFICS and its affiliates, pointing out that former civil servants are a virtually untapped resource for NGOs.

#### **ALTERNATIVES TO MILITARY INTERVENTION : NEW PATHS TO PEACE**

**Sponsored by :** Peace Action International

**Moderator :** Tracy Moavero, Peace Action International

**Speaker s:** Lakhdar Brahimi, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Chair, Panel on United Nations Peace Operations  
Jose da Silva Campino, Political Affairs Officer, Africa Division, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations  
David Jackman, Quaker United Nations Office  
Dorrie Weiss, Economists Allied for Arms Reduction (ECAAR)

**Participants :** Approximately 80

Lakhdar Brahimi referred to the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, “The Brahimi Report”, which included many recommendations for improvements. He stressed that the United Nations should make a stronger effort to tap all available information resources in order to learn as much as possible about a conflict. The United Nations should increase the number of peace operations staff at Headquarters, thereby improving the management of these operations. Jose da Silva Campino said that the use of force by the United Nations is the measure of last resort when war prevention and peaceful dispute settlement have failed. He further mentioned “An Agenda for Peace”, published in 1992, which added a further concept to the dimensions of preventive diplomacy and peacekeeping. He explained the many facets of peace-building, stressing the challenges of reintegrating former soldiers into a peaceful society after prolonged conflicts. David Jackman spoke on non-violent measures, referring to Mel Duncan and David Hartsough’s

proposal for an international non-violent peace force for the new millennium. The goal would be to create a standing, trained, non-violent peace force under global auspices. Dorrie Weiss, from ECAAR, mentioned the challenges of bringing peace to war-torn Angola after a 40-year period. “You have to replace the soldier’s pride with something else,” she said.

#### **ECO-VILLAGES : A MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING AND GLOBAL SOLIDARITY**

**Sponsored by :** The Findhorn Foundation Eco-Village Project

**Moderator :** John L. Talbott, Project Director, Eco-Village Project, Findhorn Foundation

**Speaker s:** John L. Clausen, Findhorn Foundation  
Roger Doudna, International Program Officer and Coordinator, Findhorn Foundation Fellowship  
May East, Trustee, Findhorn Foundation, and Education Coordinator,  
Eco-Village Project  
Frances Edwards, Findhorn Foundation  
J. Michael Shaw, Trustee,  
Findhorn Foundation

**Participants :** Approximately 50

The panel discussed the beginnings of the Findhorn Foundation in 1962 in Scotland and its common goals based on ecological, social, spiritual and sustainable values. May East defined an eco-village as a small community of 50 to 2,000 people united by common goals. One of its main principles is to create sustainable living that also incorporates the best of technology. Photos of the Findhorn eco-village showed the transformation to current settlements. John Talbott emphasized that economic development is crucial to developing the infrastructure and that the community earns its own livelihood. By using the natural elements of the earth the community creates an eco-village, applying ecological structures for construction and renewable energy systems for heating water and space. The community produces locally grown organic crops and replace felled trees. Roger Doudna said that personal inspirations with nature are a major guiding principle. The community also shares in social and family support, forming a partnership to enhance the quality of life. The panel agreed that the planet’s life support systems are in danger and that the twenty-first century must be declared the century to rebuild the earth.

#### **THE PEOPLE ’S ASSEMBLY IN ACTION : LINKING THE LOCAL TO THE GLOBAL IN THE NEW DEMOCRATIC DIPLOMACY**

**Sponsored by :** MPAN, the Millennium People’s Assembly Network

**Moderator :** Rob Wheeler, MPAN Chair, Pennsylvania

**Speaker s:** Rashmi Mayur, Director, International Institute for Sustainable Future  
Susan Zipp, Co-Chair, Global People’s Assembly, and Chair of the Local to Global People’s Assembly Committee

**Participants :** Approximately 25

The panel presented a video entitled “The First Global Millennium People’s Assembly”, which met in Samoa in April 2000 for its inaugural meeting, the theme being “Make Peace Stop War”. Susan Zipp spoke about the need for people to take collective action, saying that young people should be in mentor programmes to help them get more involved. This can be achieved through social clubs, meaningful dialogue and the Internet. Rashmi Mayur said that many people are working for peace and have similar goals. In discussing the planet’s health, he cited such examples as the big melt-down and the greenhouse gases. “There is no one global authority,” he said. “People should dream about the earth, the children and their future. People can’t depend on Governments any longer; we must do it ourselves.” Some participants disagreed with him, saying that there should not be a tussle of “we versus them”. A youth representative noted that she was the only young person at the meeting.

#### **NETWORKING FOR THE GLOBALIZATION OF PEACE**

**Sponsored by :** Pathways to Peace

**Moderator :** Monica Willard, Pathways to Peace

**Speaker s:** Elder William Commanda, Keeper of the three sacred Algonquin Wampum Belts  
Eileen Gannon, Global Education Associates  
Erik Larson, Brahma Kumaris  
Pierre Marchand, Appeal of the Nobel Peace Laureates  
Muhammad Mowla, Bangladesh Mission  
Betty Williams, 1976 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

**Participants :** Approximately 65

The speakers discussed different networks to promote the globalization of peace. Elder William Commanda of the Anishinabe Nation said a prayer of peace in his native tongue and spoke about the three sacred belts and their prophecy of the “seven fires”. Betty Williams spoke of her work in

Ireland with children and currently with the World’s Centres for Compassion for Children. She said, “We need to change our living rooms and our mindsets, starting at home and within to find peace.” She helped set up a Universal Declaration of the Rights of the World’s Children. Muhammad Mowla said that NGOs need to continue to bring their voice and information to the United Nations, to keep the culture of peace alive. Pierre Marchand said that many Nobel Prize Laureates had joined the Appeal of the Nobel Peace Laureates and had also signed an appeal called “For the Children”, to teach non-violence in schools around the world. Eileen Gannon discussed networking for peace education in Iraq, and Erik Larson talked about the Manifesto 2000 for the culture of peace.

#### **UNITED NATIONS AND YOUTH**

**Moderator :** David Brook, Chair, Committee on Youth

**Speaker s:** Alfred Balarin, student advocate, University of Albany  
Joan Beisel, United Nations Youth Outreach  
Maxwell Haywood, Youth Unit of the United Nations Secretariat  
Nickolai Parker, Interfaith Center of New York  
Colleen Werthmann, CyberSchoolBus

**Participants :** Approximately 50

David Brook paid homage to intergenerational commitments and pleaded for the United Nations to increase its support to children. He expressed the need to prevent children from joining belligerent hate groups such as the neo-Nazis, against whom the German Government has already been forced to take action. Maxwell Haywood stated that youth concerns are not properly addressed and that it is imperative for youth organizations to be more involved at the national level. Alfred Balarin discussed how his student group reinforces the positive aspects of the United Nations, in the face of heretics. Nickolai Parker talked of the importance of recruiting young people for NGOs by organizing essay contests, youth-guided projects and internship programmes, so that emergent visionaries can work together. Colleen Werthmann gave an extensive outline of the Cyber-SchoolBus, which offers teacher-training kits from primary through secondary school in official languages of the United Nations.

**HUMAN RIGHTS : THE FOUNDATION FOR GLOBAL SOLIDARITY**

**Sponsored by :** The Human Rights Caucus

**Moderator:** Anne Zanes, Co-Chairperson of Human Rights Caucus; Peace Links

**Speakers:** Carol Kalafatic, International Indian Treaty Council Association  
Anie Kalayjian, World Federation for Mental Health  
Dune Lankard, Founder of Eyak Preservation Council  
Roger Normand, Director, Center for Economic and Social Rights

**Participants :** Approximately 40

Panellists discussed human rights from the perspective of traditions in indigenous societies and the need for them to be considered as part of economic, social and environmental rights and to teach human rights from an early age. Carol Kalafatic noted that in indigenous societies fulfilling traditional responsibilities organically guarantees certain “rights”.

Dune Lankard noted that the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill changed the lives of people and animals of Prince William Sound forever. The community succeeded in getting Exxon to pay \$1 billion for restoration, setting an important precedent. The indigenous peoples of Alaska continue to take action to preserve their delicate ecosystem. Roger Normand said that human rights must be viewed holistically, including economic and social rights. Globalization can mean that corporations have more rights than people. He warned NGOs to be careful when accepting corporate funds and engage only in activities and associations that promote their organizations’ interests. Anie Kalayjian said that trauma is suffered throughout the lives of disaster survivors and is transferred to future generations, as experienced by Ottoman Turkish genocide survivors. She suggested working to prevent atrocities by discussing human rights with children.

**STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Summary not available