

MILLENNIUM + 5 REVIEW SUMMIT: A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

From 14 to 16 September 2005, heads of states and governments of the Member States of the United Nations will gather in New York to review the progress made towards the commitments articulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, including the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Collective security will also be a key theme on the agenda. This demonstrates the growing recognition that peace, conflict and development are intrinsically linked.

In preparation for this summit, in March UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan will issue his review report, linking the implementation of the MDGs with issues of peace and security and UN reform. It is expected that this report will build heavily on the recommendations made by the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change in their report 'A more secure world – Our shared responsibility' (<http://www.un.org/secureworld>). To ensure participation of civil society in the discussions around the review report, there are plans for a

civil society consultation in June, and there is an opportunity to have a civil society intervention at the 60th session of the General Assembly. Besides this, the Secretary-General is leaving it up to Member States to develop an open and inclusive preparatory process that delivers consensus and results for the summit. This process is being criticised by a number of NGOs as not being very transparent, and too little, too late (for more information, see www.un-ngls.org/MDG/unaction.htm). →

UPDATE ON THE REGIONAL PROCESSES

The beginning of 2005 has been a busy time for a number of regional processes, with three Regional Conferences taking place and four Regional Action Agendas finalised and adopted in January and February alone. With four more regional conferences in March and the final to follow in April, input for the Global Action Agenda is rolling in.

The process has, naturally, differed greatly in each region, both procedurally and in terms of content. The range of topics discussed has been enormous, from the Southern Africa process identifying HIV/AIDS and small arms amongst the five major challenges in their region, to the prominence of demilitarization and disarmament as one of four themes of the Northeast Asia Action Agenda. In every case, civil society organisations dealt with topics of geopolitical importance as well as local challenges, and despite the significant regional differences, commonalities that will feed into the Global Action Agenda can be identified throughout.

Read more about new developments in some regional processes below, and please visit www.gppac.net regularly for updates.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The regional process in Latin American and the Caribbean includes two regional conferences, the first of which took place in June of last year, and the second of which recently concluded in Caracas, Venezuela. Entitled "Building Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean: Lessons Learnt and Successful Experiences," the conference was co-hosted on 28 February and 1 March by Regional Coordination of Social and Economic Research, the Venezuelan Institute of Social and Political Studies, Metropolitan University Centre of Government Studies and the Centre of Service of Popular Action, and was sponsored by International Development Research Centre.

Roughly 80 participants, including representatives from CSOs in the region and elsewhere, academia, and regional and UN organisations, convened in Caracas for the conference. The first day centred on the research and activities that have been taking place in the region and internationally within the framework of the Global Partnership, and the second on finalising specific recommendations for the Global Action Agenda and the Regional Action Agenda. A number of research papers were presented and discussed, and are available on www.gppac.net.

The conference was followed up by a reflections meeting and a Regional Steering Group meeting on 2 March, where future networking, lobby and research activities were determined. In terms of networking,



2nd Regional Conference, Caracas

more involvement of unions will be solicited, due to their strong influence and connection with social movements. Lobbying will focus on activities and information dissemination during the General Assembly of the OAS in June, the Global Conference in July, a seminar of the Association of Caribbean States in September and the fourth OAS Summit of the Americas in November. Research will focus on four major themes, investigated from the perspective of what civil society and governments have done and how better interaction could constructively push things forward. The four themes are:

1. Structural conditions leading to or aggravating conflict: social inequality and exclusion;
2. The impact of natural disasters, environmental problems and conflicts caused by access and management/exploitation of natural resources;
3. Institutional weaknesses, including democratic governance and parallel structures of power; and
4. Challenges posed by US hegemony.

➔ continued: Millennium + 5 Review Summit

Despite these criticisms, this Summit is a crucial event for the Global Partnership.

First of all, it is an excellent opportunity to draw the recommendations of the Global Action Agenda to the attention of the assembled heads of states. A recurring theme in Regional Action Agendas is the need for a stronger UN lead in peace and security matters, which is consistent with the recommendations of reform from both the High Level Panel as well as the Panel of Eminent Persons on UN – Civil Society Relationships. This and other recommendations, for example on the issue of the relationship between conflict and development and the need to address root causes of conflict will feature prominently in

the Global Action Agenda, being drawn from regional input, and will be highly relevant to the debates in September.

Secondly, the Global Partnership will formulate an alternative section for the Millennium Declaration on the theme of peace and security, including a number of clear and measurable *Millennium Peace & Security Goals*, to replace the current, rather weak section on peace, security and disarmament in the Millennium Declaration of 2000. This section will centre around three appeals. The first one will call for a *shift from reaction to prevention* in dealing with conflict, through, for example, institutional and policy changes such as the suggested UN Peacebuilding Commission and the Deputy Secretary General on Peace and Security, and increased resources for conflict prevention

and peacebuilding. The second appeal calls for achieving *human security*, to affirm that the security of people is as important as the security of states. Key elements are the right of development and the right to life. The third appeal calls on the UN and its member states to form *partnerships* in dealing with conflicts, amongst themselves, but also with other actors, such as civil society.

A first draft of this 'Millennium Declaration on Peace and Security' is being circulated amongst the members of the Global Partnership, and is available on the website www.gppac.net, in the Research section. We encourage its widest circulation possible, and hope that it can also be used as a lobbying document by our regional partners and supporters.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The Regional Steering Group of the Middle East and North Africa met in February 2005 in Beirut, Lebanon, and established the Arab Partnership for Conflict Prevention and Human Security, an interim network that will work towards the establishment of an official network in the coming months. At this meeting, organised by the Permanent Peace Movement in cooperation with the European Centre for Conflict Prevention and the American Friends Service Committee in Amman, brought together some 21 organisations and individuals from countries ranging from Tunisia, Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria. The secretariat of the interim network is currently hosted by the Forum for Development, Culture & Dialogue, based in Beirut.

The Middle East and North Africa is home to a number of local and international conflicts. The numerous ethnic and religious differences also contribute to social conflict, and occasionally burst out in acts of violence. While the Middle East is not the only region suffering from violent conflict, its strategic location often gives local conflicts wider impact.

One of the main conclusions of the Regional Steering Meeting was the need to create structural mechanisms to deal with conflict and work for peace. Cross-border networking and cooperation of civil society organisations will stimulate a stronger and more active role for them in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In the coming months, the interim network will be working towards the drafting of a Regional Action Agenda, in



Regional Steering Group meeting, Beirut

addition to the official establishment of the network, hopefully to be launched during the Global Conference in July in New York. The main issues for the Regional Action Agenda are capacity building and empowerment; dialogue, tolerance, religion and awareness raising; and human security issues. The next meeting is planned for 20 - 22 April.

NORTH AMERICA

The North America process has seen a great deal of activity over the past few months, resulting in the North American Action Agenda on the Prevention of Violent Conflict that incorporates inputs from Mexico, the U.S. and Canada. On 9 December, the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee (CPCC), with financial support from Foreign Affairs Canada, hosted Mexican, U.S. and Canadian representatives from a number of civil society networks in their home countries. The day-long working session in plenary and break-out groups began synthesizing inputs from national delegations into a rough draft document, which was fine-tuned between national contact groups in the following months before formal endorsement in February 2005.

The North American Action Agenda highlights the need to focus on both structural and operational prevention, revisits and provides a North America perspective on the ten Guiding Principles adopted by the Northern, Western and Southern Europe region in the Dublin Action Agenda, and sets out specific recommendations to civil society organisations, national governments, regional organizations, the United Nations, the private sector and international financial institutions.

The North American process also provided an opportunity for collaboration with counterparts in Latin America and the Caribbean who are engaged in the Global Partnership. Immediately following the North America consultation was an Hemispheric

meeting on 10 December, hosted by the Canadian Foundation for the Americas in collaboration with the Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales, and supported financially by International Development Research Centre. Members of Regional Steering Groups and other experts from both regions met to discuss inter-regional cooperation in a number of areas, including collaborating on research and advocacy, sharing information, creating a hemispheric network for cooperation in conflict prevention, and identifying common priorities and policies.

The North America Regional Action Agenda is now available at www.gppac.net, along with more information on this process.

NORTHEAST ASIA



Regional Conference, Tokyo
Photo: courtesy of Peace Boat

The Northeast Asian process, co-initiated by Peace Boat, Women Making Peace and Asia Peace Alliance, has evolved into a sustainable conflict prevention network with comprehensive cooperation from around the region. Based on a 'Focal Point' rather than national structure, and represented by the 13 member Regional Steering Group from Seoul, Ulaanbaatar, Vladivostok, Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei, Nagoya and Tokyo, the Northeast Asian process has been gathering momentum in the lead-up to its Regional Conference in Tokyo on 1 - 4 February 2005.

From November 2004 - January 2005, Regional Co-Initiators visited Pyongyang, Seoul, Tokyo, Beijing and Taipei to promote regional cooperation and confidence-building, as well as for consultations to formulate the Regional Action Agenda. At the Regional Conference in early February, co-organised by Peace Boat and the Northeast Asia Regional Steering Group, and

supported by the United Nations University, United Nations Information Centre, UN Development Programme and the European Centre for Conflict Prevention, the 'Tokyo Agenda' was adopted by consensus. It addresses the following four main themes:

- Building a regional system for peaceful coexistence through disarmament and demilitarisation;
- Promoting humanitarian assistance and development assistance;
- Building a society that recognises justice, human rights and diversity; and
- Realising a sustainable economy and economic justice.

The Conference brought together over 50 NGO activists and researchers for a multi-faceted programme of events, including a multi-stakeholder roundtable, public symposium, and press conference, in addition to the main working conference. It was a consolidating step in the effort to establish an effective regional CSO network, who, with the fragile security situation in the region, the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula, moves to revise Japan's war-renouncing constitution, the cross-Straits issue, territorial disputes, and general lack of state cooperation, are recognising that peace and security issues are too important to be left exclusively to governments. The Global Partnership process has assisted in forging cross-border ties between NGO activists, researchers, and practitioners in the area of peace and security, a historically significant development for civil society in Northeast Asia.

SUPPORT

Twelve governments support the Global Partnership programme thus far: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, as well as the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, Spain.

A number of NGOs and institutions also support the programme: NCDO, World Vision, Cordaid, Novib/Oxfam the Netherlands, Boll Foundation, IFOR, IDRC, and FES. Many other organisations are supporting the regional processes.

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Please visit www.gppac.net for more information about the Global Partnership!

SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Southern Africa region recently concluded a three-day regional conference in the city of Pretoria, South Africa on 16 - 18 February 2005. With a newly-finalised Regional Action Agenda in hand and a newly-named Regional Steering Group, the Southern Africa conference finished in time for the all-Africa regional meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on 23 - 25 February.

Hosted by the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), 45 civil society organisations convened in Pretoria for four days of plenary sessions and working groups focusing on the Regional Action Agenda. The first day primarily consisted of discussions and presentations on progress in the global and regional processes of the Global Partnership to this point, with the second and third days turning to the details of the Regional Action Agenda, with plenary and smaller working groups debating the key challenges of conflict

prevention in the region and developing text for the action agenda.

The Regional Action Agenda that has resulted from this process highlights five challenge 'areas' which have contributed to regional instability and conflict, and develops recommendations aimed specifically at different actors in the region, namely, civil society organisations, the private sector, governments, the NEPAD secretariat, SADC, the African Union and the United Nations and related organisations. The specific challenges the region faces, as identified in the Regional Action Agenda, are

- Governance and constitutionalism,
- Socio-economic instability,
- Vulnerable groups,
- Proliferation of small arms, and
- HIV/AIDS.

Another important outcome of the conference was the nomination of a Regional Steering



Regional Conference, Pretoria

Group, which now consists of representatives of 10 Southern African countries, ACCORD and three regional networks: the Southern Africa Conflict Prevention Network, the Coalition for Peace in Africa, and the Network for Africa Peacebuilders.

You can find the Southern Africa Regional Action Agenda in both the 'Regions' and 'Action Agenda' sections of www.gppac.net, along with updated information on all regional processes.

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DRAFTING THE GLOBAL ACTION AGENDA

Curious about the progress of the Global Action Agenda on conflict prevention? Wondering how it will incorporate the input of all the Regional Action Agendas, build on research AND be launched at the Global Conference in July? Here are some answers...

Work will begin on the drafting of the Global Action Agenda at the fourth meeting of the International Steering Group in March 2005. There, a special Drafting Task Force will be formed, who will draft the Action Agenda under the auspices of the International Steering Group.

The Global Action Agenda emerges first and foremost out of the issues and ideas developed in the various Regional Action Agendas, but may also incorporate some additional points, from Global Partnership research papers and expert meetings.

In order to have as wide and as transparent a consultation process as possible, the

Global Action Agenda will be written in three stages. The provisional process is as follows:

1. The **first draft** will be written after the deliberations at the meeting of the International Steering Group in March, based on integrating and editing the text drafted in the meeting. This draft will be disseminated through the Global Partnership and other CSO networks, and to relevant government and IGO officials for comments and feedback.
2. The **second draft** will be prepared in early May, upon reviewing the comments and ideas emerging from the consultation, and sent out again for comment and preliminary endorsement throughout Global Partnership networks.
3. The **final version** will be ready in late June and sent out for formal endorsement.
4. This final version, including the endorsements, will be presented at the Global Conference in New York as a **finalised document**.

THE UN, CIVIL SOCIETY AND PREVENTING ARMED CONFLICT

The latest edition of Dr Catherine Barnes' discussion paper on improving the interaction of UN and civil society in the area of conflict prevention is now online at www.gppac.net,

so visit our Research section to read about UN-civil society interaction and potential for improvement by an expert in conflict prevention.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS | 2005

April, 18-22	• Pacific: Regional Conference, Fiji
April	• Pacific: National Consultations in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu • UN Secretary-General Report on Conflict Prevention
June, 22-24	• Reality of Aid Global Partners Meeting, Paris, France
June	• Global Week of Action Against Small Arms, IANSA • NGO consultations on Millennium Declaration Summit (in September)
July 6-8	• G8 Summit
July 12-15	• Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms, UN Headquarters, New York, USA
July 19-21	• Global Partnership Conference, "From Reaction to Prevention" at UN Headquarters, New York, USA
September, 14-16	• High-level plenary summit on Millennium Declaration at 60th session of the UN General Assembly, UN Headquarters, New York, USA

FOR THE EXTENDED CALENDAR OF EVENTS, PLEASE SEE WWW.GPPAC.NET