

## GLOBAL CONFERENCE ENDS WITH FIRM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

**T**he landmark civil society-led Global Conference on conflict prevention at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in July ended with a firm commitment to action by the UN and civil society organisations from all over the world.

“We must invest in our capacity for prevention, peace-making and peace-building and we must work together in this area,” said Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs, Ibrahim A. Gambari, at the closing ceremony. “... the Department of Political Affairs will work very closely with the Global Partnership in the months ahead to implement the vision of the Global Agenda and to establish a real partnership with civil society.”

Under-Secretary General Gambari’s words echoed those of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, whose speech was delivered by Assistant-Secretary General Stephen Stedman in the opening ceremony, when he said he would “... look to civil society to act as our partners in helping to defuse potential conflicts.”

For their part, civil society emerged from the three days of working groups, panels and workshops with concrete plans under

their belts to turn conflict prevention from myth to reality. Most of these plans came from thematic working groups, which met throughout the conference. A few examples of these outcomes are:

The Working Group on Trauma Healing and the Path of Reconciliation has proposed a draft resolution to be submitted to the UN General Assembly calling for the establishment of a Centre for Trauma Healing and Reconciliation at UN Headquarters in New York, and additional centres at each of the UN’s five Regional Economic Commissions.

The Working Group on Peace Education and Conflict Resolution Education proposed, and took initial steps to establish a global network and clearinghouse on conflict resolution education and peace education.

The Working Group on Strengthening Local, Regional and International Mechanisms for Prevention and Peace Operations proposed the creation of the position of High Commissioner for Conflict Prevention with a mandate to reach all sectors of society.

Members of these working groups, and other interested parties, will work to make these



*Global Conference opens in the UN General Assembly Hall*

proposals and plans reality in the coming months, and carry the momentum from the Global Partnership forward.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in a letter of congratulations following the Conference, also committed the UN to further cooperation. ‘I have asked Mr Gambari, the Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs who was also co-sponsor of this Conference, to continue to work very closely with the Global Partnership to implement the vision of the Global Agenda to establish a more effective partnership with civil society. We will continue to work with all our partners, and in particular civil society, for a strengthened United Nations and a vision of larger freedom.’

Governmental representatives Timor Leste President Xanana Gusmão, the Honourable Kenyan Minister Joseph William N. Nyagah, and German Ambassador Gunter Pleuger also spoke at the closing session of the conference, expressing their commitment to the ideals of GPPAC and their support for the initiative.

Read on for more Conference information.

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The Global Conference brought together over 900 peacebuilders from civil society and intergovernmental organisations from over 118 countries at UN Headquarters in New York in July 2005. It was organised by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, in partnership with the UN Department of Political Affairs.

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*Much of the contents of this newsletter was adapted from the work of freelance journalist Jim Wake, in his work on the full Conference Report, and from the People Building Peace newsletter, which can be found on [www.peoplebuildingpeace.com](http://www.peoplebuildingpeace.com). We thank both sources for their excellent work.*

# A MOMENTOUS EVENT: OVERVIEW OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE

**S**andwiched between at least three events of geopolitical importance – the series of Live8 concerts, the G8 summit, and the UN Millennium +5 Summit – the Global Conference of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict brought together over 900 peacebuilders at UN Headquarters in New York on 19 – 21 July to launch a Global Action Agenda on conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Entitled *From Reaction to Prevention: Civil Society Forging Partnerships to Prevent Violent Conflict and Build Peace*, the Global Conference was organised by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, an international network of civil society organisations working for conflict prevention and peacebuilding globally, in partnership with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs. Marking the conclusion of three years of consultation and network-building in 15 regions of the world, the full impact of the Conference cannot yet be measured, nor its future known; the following brief overview of events and happenings barely scratches the surface of what ended up being three very intense days.

## Conference proceedings

The Conference was opened in the UN General Assembly Hall in true international style, with the energising, mobilising performance of wadaiko (Japanese drum) players from drum group Tomoekai and Peace Boat, followed later in the programme by the soft yet impassioned acoustic melodies of Haitian singer Emeline Michel.

During the session, the Regional Initiators presented their key messages for change, and the Global Action Agenda was presented to United Nations Assistant-Secretary General Stephen Stedman on behalf of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, a momentous occasion in the process of the Global Partnership. Secretary-General Annan's statement, read by Mr Stedman, spoke of the 'shared mission' that civil society and the United Nations have undertaken to advance the cause of prevention.

The publication *People Building Peace II: Successful stories of civil society* was 'launched' to the public through its presentation to two

representatives from case studies from the book, Katarina Kruhonja of the Center for Peace, Non-Violence and Human Rights – Osijek, and Thelma Ekiyor of the Liberia Women Mass Action for Peace (WIPNET), who shared their remarkable stories with the Conference participants. The opening plenary was concluded with a keynote speech by 1997 Nobel Laureate Jody Williams, who gave an inspiring speech pleading for the promotion of a holistic human security agenda including human rights, sustainable development, arms control, the involvement of women in conflict prevention, and debt reduction and fair trade. 'Every time we de-link those issues or fail to make the inevitable linkages crystal clear to the general public,' she said, 'we undercut our own efforts to promote a broader understanding and acceptance of a human security agenda.'

After the opening ceremony, the 'working' aspect of this working conference began. 13 working groups, 7 panels, 6 regional panels and 29 workshops took place between the opening and closing plenary sessions in the grand General Assembly Hall, organised around the themes of the Global Action Agenda. The smaller meetings were designed to debate and clarify issues related to the Agenda, and to develop proposals and recommendations for GPPAC to take into the future. All session reports can be found in the final Conference Report and online at [www.global-conference.net](http://www.global-conference.net).

The closing conference plenary provided an opportunity for the civil society participants to hear from government officials. President Xanana Gusmão of Timor Leste, Kenyan Minister for East Africa and Regional Cooperation Joseph Nyagah, and Germany's Ambassador to the United Nations, Gunter Pleuger, all addressed the plenary and endorsed the aims and ideals of the Global Action Agenda.

Following Ambassador Pleuger's address, members of the audience were invited to tell the plenary what they would be 'taking back' to their homes at the conclusion of the conference. Not surprisingly, the remarks were varied, but there was clearly a sense of excitement at the valuable exchanges that had taken place, and sense of commitment for the future.



*Panel discussion at the Global Conference*

A keynote speech was then delivered by Vasu Gounden, Executive Director of the Africa Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD). Mr. Gounden delivered a passionate but simple message: the threats facing the world are extremely dangerous. Now is the time, then, to take the initiative and to turn the vision of GPPAC into reality.

Mr. Gounden was followed to the podium by United Nations Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari, one of the sponsors and partners of GPPAC for the Global Conference. Secretary Gambari presented a four-point plan for prevention: linkage between development and peacebuilding; respect for local custom and understanding of local dynamics; diplomacy; and partnership. He committed the Department of Political Affairs to work closely with the Global Partnership 'to implement the vision of the Global Agenda and to establish a real partnership with civil society'.

To wrap up the Global Conference, Paul van Tongeren, Executive Director of the International Secretariat of GPPAC returned to the podium. He expressed his satisfaction with the progress of GPPAC to date, while acknowledging that there was much work to be done. He encouraged conference participants to take the message of prevention back with them, and urged the United Nations to act on the prevention agenda. As he concluded his address, the participants spontaneously expressed their appreciation for the work and the vision of Mr. van Tongeren with a lengthy standing ovation. And with the business of the conference concluded — but the goals of GPPAC very much ahead — facilitator Florence Mpaayei brought the conference to a close.

*'If we want to prevent armed conflict we must not only work to demilitarise our planet, we must work to demilitarise hearts and minds of each and every human soul living on earth'*

– Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Laureate

## PEOPLE BUILDING PEACE:

### A NEW SLOGAN FOR GPPAC

People Building Peace – its what we are, and also what we do. This slogan is being used more and more often by the Global Partnership, to reach out to peacebuilders everywhere, through the web ([www.peoplebuildingpeace.org](http://www.peoplebuildingpeace.org)) and in a book (*People Building Peace II*).

People Building Peace is nowhere better represented than through a new logo, designed by Matthew Steele of Peace Boat in Japan. In his own words, the logo represents:

People Building Peace. Although we felt the logo should be represented by a human figure we wanted to avoid commonly used images of people holding hands. Therefore we decided to work with a solo figure in a state of movement (one side of the being clearly closer to the viewer than the other). The original shape of the arms and body were conceived from the shape of a bridge and reinforce the idea of a transition in space and time.



## HOW FAR WE'VE COME

Unlike so many before it, the Global Conference was far from being a stand-alone event. Rather, organisations in every corner of the world have been working towards the conference for the past three years, striving to make their voices heard regionally and globally.

To understand the real strength of the Global Conference, one has to look both back in time and to the regions which form the core of this new network.

In his *Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict* in 2001, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for non-governmental organisations to come together to examine their role in conflict prevention and future interaction with the UN in that field. The European Centre for Conflict Prevention seized upon this initiative, and over three years helped to finance and support the formation of civil society networks in 15 regions of the world on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Together these regions formed the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict.

'Lead' organisations, called Regional Initiators, in each region have facilitated processes of consultation and networking amongst key organisations and experts in their region, coordinating Regional Conferences on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In each region, the network has drafted and adopted a Regional Action Agenda on conflict prevention, reflecting the region's priorities and challenges. Along the way, civil society organisations have made connections and built relationships with governments, local

UN agencies, and other international organisations in many of the regions.

On a global level, the Global Partnership has actively promoted the issues of conflict prevention and the role of civil society with success at the UN and several friendly governments. Drawing on the Regional Action Agendas, it also drafted *People Building Peace: a Global Action Agenda for the Prevention of Violent Conflict*, a manifesto for the Global Partnership network, endorsed by over 500 organisations and presented to the UN at the Global Conference (see the article, *People Building Peace: a Global Action Agenda for the Prevention of Violent Conflict*, for more information).

The Global Conference brought actors active in the Global Partnership face-to-face for the first time ever. The scope for networking and experience-sharing were cited frequently as a major benefit of the conference, and one that will continue to thrive long afterwards.

After the Global Conference, the focus of the Global Partnership will again be on the regions, and taking forward the recommendations and ideas from the Global Action Agenda, the Regional Action Agendas and the Global Conference working groups.

For more information on the activities in the regions, and to download or read the Regional Action Agendas, please visit [www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net). If you are interested in getting involved the activities of the Global Partnership, you can also find the contact information of the Regional Initiators on [www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net).

## PEOPLE BUILDING PEACE II: SUCCESSFUL STORIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY

**P**eople Building Peace II: *Successful stories of civil society* was launched to much acclaim at the Global

Conference, the largest gathering of civil society organisations on conflict prevention and peacebuilding at the United Nations. Paul van Tongeren, Executive Director of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention, heralded the publication as 'testimony to the potential of peacebuilding.'

Standing in the UN General Assembly Hall in front of the over 900 participants of the Global Conference, the collection of case studies, anecdotes and analysis of the role of civil society in peacebuilding and conflict prevention was held up as a crucial new

resource for practitioners and academics alike.

The book was presented to two women whose organisations featured as case studies in the publication, Katarina Kruhonja of the Center for Peace, Non-Violence and Human Rights – Osijek, and Thelma Ekiyor of the Liberia Women Mass Action for Peace. The audience in the General Assembly Hall obtained a sense of the value and inspirational quality of the publication as the two women presented their successful stories of peacebuilding.

Ms Kruhonja spoke about the power of listening as a tool for peacebuilding, drawing upon the experiences with the



Thelma Ekiyor, WIPNET

➔ ..... continued: *People Building Peace II*

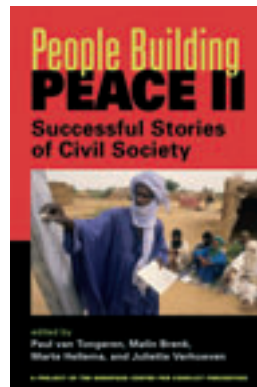
Listening Project, implemented by the Centre in ten multi-ethnic communities in eastern Croatia and Bosnia that had been severely affected by the war in the 1990s. Over 2000 people were interviewed through the project, often giving them the sense, for the first time, that '... their suffering and their opinion was important to someone.' Empowering for both the one who was being listened to and the listener, five years after the conclusion of the project, Ms Kruhonja said that real change is evident in the region, with some of those who were involved in the project having gone on to work in their communities on trust-building and peacebuilding. According to researchers in the region, at least part of the progress in the region can be attributed to the Listening Project.

Ms Ekiyor described the work of the Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET), a program of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP). The 'women's peace activism' which WIPNET has conducted since it started five years ago takes aim at structural forms of violence in West African society, and has made several very real and significant contributions to peacebuilding in the region. Among the successes Ms Ekiyor counted were a campaign in 2004 for violence-free elections in Guinea-Bissau and a campaign at the site of drawn-out peace negotiations to end the Liberian civil war in Accra, Ghana during which WIPNET

members pressed all sides in the conflict to reach a settlement.

*People Building Peace II* includes over 60 such stories of civil society successes, many of which have never previously been documented and most of them written by practitioners involved in the initiatives themselves. These stories are accompanied by thematic analysis and insights from key experts in the field of conflict prevention such as Hizkias Assefa, Catherine Barnes, Norbert Ropers and Andrés Serbin and by personal anecdotes from a number of high-profile peacebuilders such as President Xanana Gusmão of Timor Leste, Desmond Tutu, Her Majesty Queen Noor, together with a foreword by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

*People Building Peace II* can be purchased through Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc. at [www.rienner.com](http://www.rienner.com) or +1-303-444-6684.



Mr. Jan Eliasson

## DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD'S 100TH BIRTHDAY RECEPTION

In the UN Visitors Lobby overlooking the East River, the participants of the Global Conference were invited to celebrate the life and work of the great Dag Hammarskjöld on his 100th birth anniversary by the United Nations Association of Sweden and the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

The event heard inspirational welcome speeches by Paul van Tongeren, Executive Director of the International Secretariat of GPPAC, Jan Eliasson, current President of the General Assembly and former Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations and Ambassador William vanden Heuvel, former US Ambassador to the UN. All three expressed appreciation and inspiration from the late Dag Hammarskjöld, the second UN Secretary-General.

Jan Eliasson paid tribute to Hammarskjöld's activism and passion, and urged the members of the Global Partnership to continue their 'historic task' of responding to conflict in much earlier stages. Citing the millions of lives, billions of dollars – and the reputation of international organisations, including the UN – Eliasson drew upon his experiences in Sudan and Somalia in the early 1990s to speak passionately about the need for civil society organisations and international organisations to work together to prevent conflict for the sake of 'human dignity'. Ambassador vanden Heuvel also encouraged the delegates to work with one voice to put conflict prevention initiatives on the reform agenda in the coming months.

*We must stop pointing fingers  
and instead, come together  
to heal the wounds that we  
inflict on each other.*

– President Xanana Gusmão  
of Timor Leste

## WHAT IS GPPAC?

### THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP AT A GLANCE

**P** An excerpt from the Interim Review\* of the Global Partnership shows clearly the roles that GPPAC fills in the views of those who are actively engaged with the partnership:

**Connections** Vertically, horizontally, regionally, globally, and thematically, GPPAC has enabled connections and channels of communication which were previously not functioning or not possible.

**Catalyst** GPPAC has energised civil society's thinking about conflict prevention and raised awareness of contributions made by civil society to conflict prevention nationally, regionally and globally, empowering it and making its voice stronger.

**Knowledge Sharing** The network brought lessons learnt in the field into the public domain, and attracted attention to 'forgotten'

conflicts and local issues. It has also promoted important messages in the regions in which it has worked, such as human security or gender and conflict issues.

**Global Voice** GPPAC has helped to bring recognition that civil society should fit into the 'international architecture', and international organisations should provide space for it. It has strived to give the peace-making community a global voice and representation, as, for example, the development community has.

**Sub-Regional Scope** The diversity and flexibility of the experiences of the 15 regions have allowed for manageable and valued sub-regional input, generating real regional input while enabling global coordination.

**High Quality Events** The quality of events organised by the International Secretariat, and the commitment of its leadership and staff have been highly appreciated.

\* Undertaken by two independent consultants, who interviewed over 50 people at the Global Conference.

# CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION AGENDA WELCOMED AT THE UN, SETS CIVIL SOCIETY AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE



When UN Assistant-Secretary General Stephen Stedman accepted the Global Action Agenda on behalf of Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the opening ceremony of the Global Conference, it marked a highlight achievement of the Global Partnership and ushered in a new phase for the network.

*People Building Peace: a Global Agenda for the Prevention of Violent Conflict* is, as the manifesto and reform agenda for the Global Partnership, the most important document of the network, forming both the basis for the discussions at the Global Conference itself and a programme for the future of the Global Partnership.

The 13 working groups of the Global Conference were organised around aspects of the Global Action Agenda, and tasked with developing concrete implementation plans for the Agenda.

Moreover, as it addresses both structural and operational prevention, as well as post-conflict peacebuilding, the Global Action Agenda is a wide-ranging, ambitious document designed to guide the development of programmes of action on many aspects of conflict prevention and peacebuilding far into the future. Priorities chosen from the Global Action Agenda and the Regional Action Agendas will determine the activities in all of the Global Partnership's 15 regions over the coming years.

The Global Action Agenda seeks to imbue the conflict prevention debate with a civil society voice that is both vital in the era of modern conflict and growing in strength and power through the coordination of the



*Paul van Tongeren presenting Global Action Agenda to Assistant-Secretary General Stedman*

Global Partnership. It articulates a vision for addressing the dangers of violent conflict and the destruction that violent conflict causes through creating systems and mechanisms which allow for intervention before violence occurs, or which contribute to the establishment of a 'culture of peace' where violence is no longer an acceptable option for resolving conflict.

The agenda proposes systems, strategies and partnerships for working with conflict effectively; identifies root causes of conflict

which must be addressed to promote 'human security'; and discusses programmes and funding needs associated with the implementation of prevention and peacebuilding initiatives. It also includes recommendations focussed specifically on civil society networks, the United Nations, governments, and regional organisations respectively for building capacities for prevention.

It was compiled following the conclusion of 15 parallel regional processes during which civil society organisations in 15 different regions met and exchanged views over a period of several years. Each regional process ended with the adoption of a Regional Action Agenda. The Global Action Agenda was based on the regional agendas and serves as a platform for reform and change leading to implementation of a prevention agenda (for more about this process, see the article 'How far we've come').

For the full text of the Global Action Agenda, and to join the 500+ endorsees of the document, please visit the Action Agenda page of [www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net).



*Regional Initiators presenting Global Action Agenda at the UN*

## WWW.PEOPLEBUILDINGPEACE.ORG – PORTAL OF THE FUTURE



Shortly before the Global Conference, GPPAC launched a groundbreaking news and blogging website at [www.peoplebuildingpeace.org](http://www.peoplebuildingpeace.org), a virtual meeting space and information source for peacebuilders everywhere.

Responding to the needs of the global community of individuals and organisations partnering to prevent conflict and promote peace around the world, the People Building Peace website provides news stories, features success stories on conflict prevention, and offers a collaborative workspace for people searching for non-violent alternatives to armed conflict.

During the Conference, participants were introduced to blogging on the site by a dedicated team of volunteers, who also wrote and edited the People Building Peace newsletter each day. Blogs were posted by 50 people from 22 different countries, demonstrating the enormous potential this new interactive tool has for connecting people globally. Since then, participants and other peacebuilders from around the world have continued to blog, post news and resources, and have requested space for continuing work started at the Global Conference.

Tapping the potential of the site is up to peacebuilders such as yourself, so visit [www.peoplebuildingpeace.org](http://www.peoplebuildingpeace.org) today.



¡Retumba! at the Peace Concert

## PEACE CONCERT IN DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD PARK

On Wednesday, 20th July, GPPAC delegates and local New Yorkers alike braved the heat and crowded into Dag Hammarskjöld Park for the Peace Concert, conveying the grassroots messages of peace and cultural understanding through the sounds and rhythms of a diverse blend of artists and speakers from around the world.

Colourful musical performances were interspersed with testimonials of peace and conflict by witnesses from different regions. Amano Fumiko, a 14 year old girl at the time of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, and Korean activist Jang Jeom-Dol, who was forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese Army during WWII, shared the stage with local urban youth organisation Global Kids and two young women from Israel and Palestine. The latter two, Niveen Abu Nijmeh from Palestine and Eliat Maoz from Israel, took to the stage together in a powerful expression of unity that brought tears to some eyes. Miss Abu Nijmeh literally screamed out “Freedom!” to tremendous applause.

Lead performer Jean Paul Samputu, a tireless worker for peace and reconciliation, and a dedicated advocate of HIV/AIDS education, lost his parents and four siblings in the horror of the Rwandan genocide. His songs “cross emotional borders” in remembering the genocide, celebrating the return of refugees to their homes and holding up all our children as the hope for the future. Recognized as Most Promising African Male Artist in the 2003 Kora Awards (Africa’s version of the Grammys), Samputu believes passionately in the power of music to make a difference.

Performers from New York City’s own Center for Traditional Music and Dance, the unique all women Caribbean ensemble ¡Retumba! and spectacular West African Kotchegna showcased the value of cross-cultural communication and the role of the arts in building communities and celebrating diversity.

The concert was organised by Peace Boat ([www.peaceboat.org](http://www.peaceboat.org)).

## CIVIL SOCIETY ADDRESSES UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE

On September 22, two prominent members of GPPAC were invited to an open debate at the United Nations Security Council on the role of civil society in conflict prevention and resolution. “The Security Council underscored and will strengthen its relationship with civil society,” said a statement released by the UNSC President.

“Civil society should complement the role of nation states,” ACCORD Executive Director Vasu Gounden told the Security Council, in what is believed to be only the second time civil society has participated at the Security Council in this manner. Eight Foreign Ministers were present at the meeting, many of whom were enthusiastic about the potential of civil society and its closer collaboration with the UN.

Gounden was joined by Paul van Tongeren, representing the International Secretariat of GPPAC, in emphasizing that that consensus must be one in which prevention, not reaction, is the primary goal.

*As civil society, you are uniquely placed to facilitate local conflict resolution; to mobilise public support for peace settlements; to support disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants; to champion human rights; and to build trust to encourage healing and reconciliation.*

- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

The paper van Tongeren presented to the Security Council calls on the UN to hold a conference in 2010 to determine a programme of action on conflict prevention with regional and civil society input, and to review the Peacebuilding Commission. He also called on the UN to develop better early warning indicators, to establish peacebuilding infrastructure in regions prone to conflict, and to support regional mediation initiatives.

Gounden concluded his speech with a plea: “In 1945 we united under this august body to bring peace to the world... and today sixty years later we are divided about *how* to bring peace to the world. Let not the future generations say that here stood a people who presided over a United Nations of divided nations. Let us forge a new partnership and build a new consensus!”

In response, the Security Council noted that “a vigorous and inclusive civil society could provide community leadership, help shape public opinion, and facilitate as well as contribute to reconciliation between conflicting communities” and recognized the “potential contributions of a vibrant and diverse civil society ... (due to the) the advantage of specialized knowledge, capabilities, experience, links with key constituencies, influence and resources...’ It put the issue ‘under review’ and committed to meeting with civil society on Security Council missions, and make more use of ‘Arria-formula’ meetings.

The full text of these statements can be found in the News section of [www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net) and on [www.peoplebuildingpeace.org](http://www.peoplebuildingpeace.org).



The Global Conference at the UN General Assembly Hall

# THE SUBSTANCE: PRELIMINARY OUTCOMES OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE

**W**ith so many different sessions taking place simultaneously, and the sheer volume of issues being discussed, it was difficult to get a clear picture of conference outcomes and conclusions. Moreover, many will only materialise over time, through the development of initiatives which had their inception at the Global Conference.

However, the facilitators of the Global Conference foresaw this difficulty, and met with working group and workshop organisers nightly to troubleshoot, and get a feel for emerging outcomes. Moreover, each group was able to submit a summary of their proceedings and outcomes for presentation on the final day of the Conference. What is reproduced below is an adaptation of the presentation of co-facilitator Dr Catherine

Barnes, based on the synopses from the groups, to the concluding plenary.

This is truly only a summary overview. The full reports of all of the groups, where available, can be found on [www.global-conference.net](http://www.global-conference.net), under their slot in the conference programme. A much more comprehensive overview will be available shortly in the Conference Report.

## Actions to strengthen civil society and peacebuilding

- *Build communities of practice and knowledge networks for specific types of work*  
Specific recommendations included the development of a women's prevention and peacebuilding network, the development of a roster of experts, and the establishment of an international network focusing on conflict resolution and peace education.
- *Proactively engage other key sectors and mainstream prevention and peacebuilding*  
Target sectors should include media; the business community, including both multi-national corporations and the local business community; parliamentarians and local government; faith-based organisations; the academic and scientific community; women and youth; and the development community.
- *Communicate more effectively*  
Here, it was noted that the actual language used within the conflict prevention community is often difficult, alien, and inaccessible to those who are not actively involved in conflict prevention work, and that it is therefore important to employ language that will engage the target audience.
- *Work toward shared ethical standards and strengthening accountability of peacebuilding civil society organisations*
- *Continue the development of a regionally-rooted global network*  
The network can and should be complex, geographically based, or based on issues and constituencies.

## Building institutional capacities and systems

- *Work on institutional development for the purposes of engaging in proactive, solution-oriented, cooperative efforts to promote human security with national and regional organisations, the United Nations, and civil society organisations*
- *Establish transparent, multi-stakeholder early warning and early response systems to promote human security*
- *Focus on developing more financial resources and allocating financial resources more effectively*  
Among the specific recommendations mentioned were the encouragement government spending on conflict prevention; the development of longer term funding sources; the encouragement of the allocation of funds which can be quickly available for rapid reaction in crisis situations; to carry out research on funding sources; and initiation of a dialogue with potential donors.



Opening Plenary Session

## Enhancing and implementing international standards

- *Focus on the September 2005 High-Level Summit as an opportunity to advance the GPPAC agenda*
- *Develop norms for prevention and predictable responses to potential conflicts and crises*  
Currently, the international response to crisis situations is something of a 'lottery' in which the willingness to respond is often dependent on factors such as strategic importance, geographic proximity, and media exposure. It was therefore suggested that a priority should be to push for acceptance in the international community of the principle of 'Responsibility to Protect' based on international norms.
- *With respect to the proposed Peacebuilding Commission, GPPAC should work to insure that it is established in such a way that civil society in general, and women in particular, are assured of access, and that the Peacebuilding Commission embraces the prevention approach*
- *Effectively monitor and work for the implementation of existing standards including Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; the Decade of Peace; and others*
- *Work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in war-affected societies*
- *Work to create a coherent international framework and a programme of action for prevention and peacebuilding*  
The Trauma and Reconciliation Working Group made a specific proposal to push for a Security Council resolution on trauma healing and reconciliation.
- *Develop 'Millennium Peace and Security Goals' to complement the Millennium Development Goals*

*"... I ask us to remind ourselves ... that violent conflicts and wars are about people and that it is only by making their pain of ours, that we can prevent similar occurrences from happening in our own "seemingly" safe countries."*

- Thelma Ekiyor, Liberia Women Mass Action for Peace (WIPNET)

*'...lets gather all the progressive forces and build a global partnership that will break the chains of intolerance, exploitation, poverty, selfishness and greed and replace it with a new humanity built from our shared understanding of the drivers of armed conflict ... let us believe ... that we too can become pioneers of that impossible dream of peace one day..'*

- Vasu Gounden, Founder and Executive Director of ACCORD

## REGIONAL INITIATORS

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The European Centre for Conflict  
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Please visit [www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net) for more  
information about the Global Partnership!

## A FESTIVAL OF PEACEBUILDING AROUND THE WORLD

### A Celebration of the GPPAC Regional Processes aboard the Peace Boat

On the first evening of the Global  
Conference, Peace Boat threw open its  
doors and four hundred participants of the  
Conference climbed aboard, under the full  
moon and the lights of Manhattan.

The event was a celebration of the regional  
processes of the Global Partnership,  
bringing together peacebuilders from all  
corners of the world to sing and dance  
together, while vowing to strengthen their  
network for conflict prevention. It was  
a showcase of culture and arts featuring  
a number of talented Peace Boat artists.  
There were also thoughtful and poignant  
displays of the effects of war, including the  
heartbreaking monument to the victims of  
Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the entrance to  
the Peace Boat, vividly illustrating both the  
immediate loss of life as well as the long-  
term casualties from radiation poisoning.

The Peace Boat, berthed in New York  
Harbour for the duration of the Conference,  
is the passenger ship chartered by the  
Japanese organisation of the same name,  
which travels the world on peace voyages  
that include educational programming and  
activities promoting peace, human rights  
and sustainable development. The ship  
creates a neutral, mobile space and enables  
people to engage across borders in dialogue  
and mutual cooperation at sea, and in the  
ports that are visited.



Aboard the Peace Boat  
(photo courtesy S. Mizumoto)