

United Nations 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual

Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico City, Mexico

9 to 11 September 2009



# FINAL REPORT

END HUNGER  
Environmental  
Sustainability  
DDR

Combat HIV/AIDS  
CHILDREN'S  
HEALTH  
End Poverty

for peace and development  
**DISARM NOW!**



In partnership with the Government of Mexico  
and the Office for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations



## **62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference**

**9–11 September 2009**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico City, Mexico**

# **For Peace and Development DISARM NOW!**

## **FINAL REPORT**

Organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information  
in partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee,  
the Government of Mexico,  
and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.











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Estimado Amigo,

Tiene en sus manos un valioso documento. Se trata de un testigo inigualable de la histórica conferencia que tuvo lugar en la hermosa Ciudad de México. La Conferencia Anual DIP/ONG que tuvo lugar en dicha ciudad bajo el lema ¡Desarme Ahora! Trabajemos por la paz y el desarrollo, se ha convertido en uno de los eventos de la sociedad civil más importantes de las últimas décadas. La repercusión de su Declaración, circulada como documento oficial en el Consejo de Seguridad y en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, hace que la trascendencia de esta Conferencia sea, si cabe, aún mayor.

Es por ello que le quiero agradecer a usted y a todos los representantes de organizaciones en la sociedad civil el apoyo recibido.

Comencé esta conferencia con un sueño y una meta. Mi sueño era trabajar fructíferamente con mi tierra, la tierra de mis antepasados y que llevo muy cerca de mi corazón. Mi meta era conseguir que el Grupo de Relaciones con las ONG consiguiese demostrar a través de su colaboración con los diferentes socios, que la sociedad civil tiene mucho que decir y aportar a las causas del desarme, la paz y el desarrollo. Ni qué decir tiene que ambos objetivos se han cumplido.

Este éxito se ha visto enormemente engrandecido, como ya mencioné antes, con la circulación por parte de México de la Declaración como documento del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas. Por lo que hemos podido averiguar es la primera vez en la historia del Consejo de Seguridad que una declaración de la sociedad civil circula en el Consejo como documento oficial, gracias a un estado miembro de tal órgano. El compromiso de México con el desarme y la paz, además de con la sociedad civil, no podría haber tenido mejor sello que dicho acontecimiento de carácter histórico.

La trascendencia y repercusiones de dicho acontecimiento sobrepasan cualquier expectativa que pudiéramos haber tenido. También demuestra que, ahora más que nunca, la sociedad civil puede contribuir de forma muy directa en la toma de decisiones de aquellos que ostentan el poder para lograr el tan necesario cambio.

Pero el mejor reflejo del éxito de la Conferencia lo encontramos en ustedes. Más de 1.300 delegados que representan a cerca de 340 organizaciones no gubernamentales de unos 55 países participaron en la Conferencia de este año. Estas cifras reflejan claramente la dedicación y la creciente importancia de la participación de la sociedad civil en las Naciones Unidas. Gracias a que la celebración de la Conferencia tuvo lugar en México, hemos sido capaces de asociar a 43 organizaciones no gubernamentales de México con el Departamento de Información Pública, contribuyendo así con nuestro granito de arena en la mejora de nuestra sociedad.

De todo corazón, gracias. ¡Junto hemos hecho historia!

**María-Luisa Chávez**

Jefa, Grupo de Relaciones con las ONG  
Departamento de Información Pública

## Letter from the Chair of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference

At the 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference on Human Rights, in Paris, France, last September, the Mexican Government was instrumental in reaching out to us, suggesting that we come to Mexico City in 2009 to discuss issues of disarmament and development. One of the ramifications of going to Mexico was a concentrated effort to reach out to non-governmental organizations in Mexico and throughout Central America, the Caribbean and South America.

The planning process was unique because it involved so many individuals from two different countries, including a Planning Committee that included NGO representatives from New York City and Mexico City, as well as a Conference Board composed of DPI representatives, the Mexican Government, representatives from the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Through a process of compromises, speakers, themes, roundtable topics, and a Declaration were all agreed to by all the decision makers.

One of the highlights of the Conference was the presence of Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations. His speech at the Opening Ceremony called attention to the current window of opportunity to focus on nuclear disarmament, because of the apparent willingness of the United States and Russia to hold substantive discussions on reducing the world's nuclear stockpile. His involvement in two side events included youthful participants as well as the oldest attendee.

Many delegates from the developing world came to the Conference to learn how to reduce the role of small arms in their countries. They had had first-hand experiences with the ramifications of armed conflict in their lives. As a result of a Roundtable discussion and a Breakout session, they learned about a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty to stop weapons from being used to fuel conflict, poverty and human rights abuses, as well as some grassroots approaches to lobby their governments.

At the end of the Conference, a Declaration prepared by members of the Committee of Experts in Mexico and New York was circulated. It called upon Member States of the United Nations, the Department of Public Information of the UN, and NGOs to work for a nuclear-free world as well as a cessation of armed violence and the diversion of monies from the global defense budget to better standards of living for the billions of human beings who find themselves in hopeless poverty.

The Declaration passed unanimously and copies were given to the Under-Secretary-General of Communications and Public Information to give to the Secretary-General of the UN; the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs to give to the President of the Security Council; and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Mexico to give to the President of Mexico to present to the Security Council meeting. Mexico's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Claude Heller, had the Declaration circulated as an official document of the September meeting. A working group headed by two members of the Mexican NGO Focal Group and two members of the New York NGO Community was created to carry on the work of the Conference in the next 12 months.

It was a distinct pleasure to chair this extraordinary event. I thank all of the partners who helped plan and carry out the different aspects of this historic three-day Conference.

**Charles "Chuck" Hitchcock**  
Chair, 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference

# Conference Overview

**The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference paid tribute to Mexico and Latin America, a country and region that have demonstrated that nuclear weapons-free zones are feasible and sustainable.**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference, titled "For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!", was historic and memorable not only because of the timeliness of its theme but also because its message resonated at the pinnacle of the international community.

The Conference, held 9-11 September 2009 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mexico City and other nearby venues, was organized collaboratively by the UN Department of Public Information, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, the Government of Mexico, and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. Some 1,300 participants, representing 340 NGOs from about 55 countries attended the Conference.

This was the second time that the DPI/NGO Conference was held outside United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Last year, the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, dedicated to "Reaffirming Human Rights for All," was suitably held in Paris, France, where the Universal Declaration for Human Rights was adopted six decades earlier.

By holding the Annual DPI/NGO Conferences on the road, regional NGOs were given the opportunity to associate themselves with DPI. Consequently, the association process in mid-2009 brought in a large number of regional NGOs, particularly from Latin America and the Caribbean. Forty-three non-governmental organizations based in Mexico were newly associated in time for the Conference, and more than three-quarters of the attendees at the Conference also hailed from Mexico and the region.



**Participants convene for the Opening Ceremony at the Ex Convento San Hipolito.**



The dais at the Opening Ceremony: Miguel Marín Bosch, Admiral Francisco Saynez Mendoza, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Ambassador Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Jody Williams and Charles Hitchcock.



The Conference attracted a wide range of experts in the fields of nuclear disarmament and conventional arms regulation, who shared their expertise with NGOs in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, four Roundtables, two Breakouts and 24 NGO-organized Workshops.

By convening the 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference in Mexico City, civil society and diverse stakeholders worldwide paid tribute to Mexico and Latin America, a country and region that have demonstrated that nuclear-weapons-free zones are feasible and sustainable.

This fact was emphasized by several speakers and panelists, who noted the symbolism of convening this year's major global disarmament conference in Mexico City, where the groundbreaking "Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America" was signed on 14 February 1967. Commonly referred to as the "Treaty of Tlatelolco", in deference to the Aztec name of the Mexican capital district where the original offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were located, the pioneering accord was steadfastly advocated by the late Alfonso Garcia Robles, a distinguished Mexican statesman, who was awarded the 1982 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

**The speakers urged civil society to take advantage of the current political climate and demand that national governments agree to convening a nuclear weapons convention as well as endorsing the Arms Trade Treaty.**

In his opening remarks, **Kiyo Akasaka**, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, said civil society has gathered to discuss nuclear disarmament at an important time in history, when global leaders and statesmen are questioning whether nuclear weapons are indispensable to peace and security, and costs and dangers of nuclear weapons are mounting.

In her welcoming remarks on behalf of the host country during the Opening Ceremony, **Ambassador Patricia Espinosa Cantellano**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, noted that



nuclear weapons are a peril to international peace and security and an intolerable threat to human survival. She noted that Mexico's objective has always been the elimination of this "diabolical danger" from the face of Earth.

Citing the Conference's theme, Ms. Espinosa said disarmament is a way to a world of peace, with enough food, water, housing, medicine and schools for everyone. "Disarm now, on behalf of our dignity as human beings and of the inalienable rights of the next generations", she said.

**Ban Ki-moon**, UN Secretary-General, in his Opening Ceremony address, also recalled that the driving force behind Latin America's nuclear-weapons-free status was a Mexican — Alfonso García Robles, whose work earned him a Nobel Peace Prize. This achievement has served as an example for four more regions — including the entire continent of Africa — to become nuclear-weapons-free zones, he noted.

Like other speakers at the three-day event, the UN Secretary-General said it was poignant for the Conference to be taking place at a time when the Presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation, which possess the world's largest nuclear arsenals, have declared their sup-



A participant poses a question.

port for a nuclear-weapons-free world. This goal, he said, is in accordance with their obligations under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

For **Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann**, President of the 63rd UN General Assembly, who addressed the Conference participants in a videotaped message, there are few issues more pertinent than total nuclear disarmament. Although the 1970 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons provided the central framework for global cooperation on nuclear arms control and disarmament for nearly four decades, Mr. Brockmann said other venues must now be created because this agenda has been waning in influence.

**Miguel Marín Bosch**, in his keynote address during the Opening Ceremony, echoed thoughts of others at the Conference, and said NGOs are essential to the disarmament process. Mr. Bosch said they help society move towards a "world that is less poor and more just, less violent and



An NGO representative addresses the panel of experts.



more decent". He recalled that for decades NGOs focusing on disarmament issues were excluded from the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. However, Mr. Bosch stated that the situation today is changing and many governments have overcome their "allergy" to disarmament-oriented NGOs.

As for the Conference theme, Mr. Bosch unequivocally stated: "Nuclear weapons are intrinsically dangerous. They pose an unparalleled threat to the very existence of humankind. They do not enhance a country's security but rather imperil the survival of all nations. That should be the point of departure of nuclear disarmament efforts".

**Jody Williams**, in her expressive keynote address at the Opening Ceremony, placed the burden of success of the nuclear disarmament and conventional arms treaties squarely on the shoulders of civil society. She said, NGOs must inform U.S. President Barack Obama that they want the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review to replace the current aggressive nuclear policies with a doctrine that clearly and unequivocally moves the world toward nuclear disarmament. "If I could only make one concrete suggestion to NGOs, networks, and coalitions to abolish nuclear weapons it would revolve around communication, communication and more communication", she said.

Officially opening the Conference, **Charles "Chuck" Hitchcock**, Chair, thanked NGOs and civil society, especially those from Mexico, for participating in the Conference and helping to make it a success, noting that the Government of Mexico was instrumental in the Conference's conception. He said the time is right for more concern about the disarmament process, both in terms of nuclear weapons and conventional ones.

The Conference provided a platform to exchange ideas and experiences among diverse experts and organizations operating in the field of peace and disarmament. With a significant number of civil society organizations, grassroots constituencies, the UN System, Member States, media, academia, the private sector, and other institutions present, there were ample opportunities for NGOs to share their ideas with representatives of different disciplines.

The reasoning behind the NGO demands was loud and clear. If national governments created a global political atmosphere that would build confidence among all parties rather than fear and



insecurity, then funds and other key resources could be redirected from nuclear and conventional arms production to developmental issues such as climate control, health, education, agriculture, and other Millennium Development Goals.

The equally important topics of nuclear disarmament and conventional arms regulation, as well as human development and global security, elicited lively discussions at the Roundtables that generated creative strategies for future activity. For example, NGOs insisted that education is essential in communicating the significance of human development in global security. Furthermore, disarmament education should not be restricted to classroom lessons. Social experiences must also be taken advantage of in reinforcing this message, they said.

In the realm of disarmament, the speakers urged civil society to take advantage of the current political climate and demand that national governments agree to convening a nuclear weapons convention as well as endorsing the Arms Trade Treaty as the first practical steps in reaching the Conference's goal.

The UN Secretary-General's attendance at the Conference and two iconic events brought additional prominence to the event, while demonstrating to the NGOs that their aspirations are precisely in line with those of the UN leadership.

From the dramatic overhead photo of the Conference attendees and the Secretary-General waving during the Opening Ceremony, to helping student-participants finalize their peace sculpture, and finally to the moment when he pressed "enter" on a laptop to "tweet" his "We Must Disarm" message, the Secretary-General integrated soundly into the community of supportive NGOs.

In the Closing Ceremony, which symbolically took place on 11 September, Mr. Akasaka made reference to the date of "9-11" and the tragic events of eight years ago. He said the day "reminds us all of the urgent need for disarmament. I ask for a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the United States that day".

**Roberto Zamora**, lawyer and member of Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, highlighted in his keynote address the inefficient distribution of the world's resources. Mr. Zamora stated that wealth is often invested in arms, rather than in areas of greater need,



**Roberto Zamora** addresses the audience at the Closing Ceremony with (from left) Sergio Duarte, Charles Hitchcock, Kiyoo Akasaka, Ambassador Juan Manuel Gomez Robledo and Tadatoshi Akiba.

such as government debt or human development. This reflects, he noted, the international community's inability to effectively address two primary issues: proliferation of small arms and adherence to the Rule of Law.

**Sergio Duarte**, the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, in his remarks during the Closing Ceremony, referring to the skepticism surrounding disarmament, recalled that several decades ago Ambassador Zenon Rossides, former Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the UN, defined the verb "to disarm" as "an irregular verb with no first person singular and only a future tense".

However, Mr. Duarte said, civil society has made great progress towards achieving nuclear disarmament. NGOs have sent a strong signal that civil society must be included as an active participant in achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world, he said, a goal that has been supported by countless disarmament groups for many years. He specifically noted that today a substantively and geographically diverse group of NGOs is advocating this mission.

**Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba** of Hiroshima, in his closing Call to Action, urged NGOs to ask their mayors and other municipal officials, who are generally more accessible than presidents and ministers, to support the global nuclear disarmament campaign. Mayor Akiba said he would dub this contemporary campaign the "Cosmos Revolution".

Finally, Mr. Hitchcock, after assessing three days of active engagement, presented the NGO Declaration on Disarming for Peace and Development, which outlined the on-going tasks for civil society as it advocated for disarmament with NGOs, local and national governments as well the UN and other international organizations.

The document was eventually presented to the incumbent and former Presidents of the UN General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General and the UN Security Council. For the first time in the history of NGO-UN relations, thanks to the unrelenting efforts of the Government of Mexico, the Conference Declaration was circulated as an official document of the UN Security Council and the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly.

The Conference came to a rousing finale with an exhilarating performance by the Ballet Folklórico de México.

Documents, speeches, news and other material pertaining to the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Roundtables and Breakout sessions of the Conference can be accessed at <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference/>.

At the Closing Ceremony: The Ballet Folklórico de México performs a traditional dance while a dancer captivates the audience with a solo performance.





# Mexico Promotes Conference Declaration on Disarming for Peace and Development

Representatives of the Government of Mexico have ensured that the Declaration on Disarming for Peace and Development, which was unanimously adopted by civil society at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference, would be remembered for all times.

First, **Ambassador Claude Heller**, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN, in a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 22 September, requested that the Declaration be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

In his correspondence, Ambassador Heller stated:

“I have the honour to refer to the NGO Declaration: Disarming for Peace and Development, which was adopted at the Sixty-Second Annual DPI/NGO Conference on 11 September 2009. As you are aware, Mexico hosted this Conference, and my Government undertook the commitment to bring this document to the attention of the Security Council, given its relevance to the work of the Council during the current month.

“I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council”.

On Monday, 28 September, during the General Debate at the 64<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, **Ambassador Patricia Espinosa Cantellano**, referenced the Declaration in her address.

Ambassador Espinosa said:

“As President Felipe Calderon pointed out in the Security Council Summit, nuclear proliferation and the insufficient legal access to peaceful uses for atomic energy demand a renewed commitment for disarmament and the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime.

“I also echo the energetic call of global civil society — made on the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference in Mexico — so that governments from all over the globe undertake our responsibilities to achieve our goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world”.

Ambassador Heller, in a statement in the General Assembly dated 5 October, requested that the Declaration be circulated as document of the General Assembly. He said:

“... I would like to acknowledge the contributions of civil society to disarmament and non-proliferation, and bring to your attention the findings/conclusions of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information and NGOs, held in Mexico, which my delegation has requested to circulate as a General Assembly document”.



**Permanent  
Representative  
of Mexico to UN  
Claude Heller**



**Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of Mexico  
Patricia Espinosa  
Cantellano**

## Follow-up Work on Conference Declaration

The attendees of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference are capitalizing on the momentum of their deliberations and Declaration on Disarming for Peace and Development by designating a small group that will endeavour throughout the coming year to implement the points listed in their concluding document.

At a meeting at the Museo Interactivo de Economía in Mexico City, a day after the Conference came to a close, the following four individuals were selected to continue the work of the three-day forum: **Jim Nelson**, NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, **Adalberto Saviñon** and **David Trujillo**, Centro Lindavista, **Mark Marge**, IANSA, and **Roberto Zamora**, lawyer and member of Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict. **Charles Hitchcock**, Conference chair, was appointed liaison.

The group is interested in promoting peace, disarmament and development in local communities and regionally as well as exploring opportunities for deepening cooperation with the UN. They will also be busy advocating international regulation of conventional arms and the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty.

At the centre of its campaign will be the nearly 1,200-word Declaration that was unanimously adopted at the Conference, which offers ample tasks for NGOs to undertake relative to their communities and countries, as well as the UN and other international organizations.

The group members expect to expand its base with more NGO participants, especially those representing youth and survivors organizations.

They believe that the follow-up campaign will also serve as a good opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the UN and NGOs in Latin America. Ultimately, they hope to include

The topics of disarmament, peace and development kept the NGOs keenly focused on the discussions.





in the Declaration all of the comments and suggestions that did not make it into the document during the Conference. Additionally, the follow-up effort will be important in strengthening the NGOs' upcoming lobbying with their governments.

The follow-up group will disseminate the Conference's message with the help of an informational bulletin that will address both equally important topics of nuclear disarmament and conventional arms regulation. Other topics will be peace education, youth empowerment and human security.

In time, the group hopes to establish subcommittees that will address specific topics related to disarmament, peace and development, and coordinate tasks between civil society and the UN in preparation for disarmament conferences, meetings and other public events next year.



*A bird's eye view of NGOs at one of the many sessions.*

# Summary of Plenary and Roundtable Presentations

## Conference Opening Session

### Ex Convento San Hipólito

Kiyo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, reminded the audience in his opening remarks that this was the second time that the Annual DPI/NGO Conference was being held outside of UN Headquarters in New York. Mr. Akasaka said the decision to convene the Conference in Mexico City was “significant and symbolic”, considering that the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the first accord to ban nuclear weapons in a wide geographic region, was adopted in the host country in February 1967.



**Kiyo Akasaka**

“Mexico, a nation with a proven history of championing disarmament, is also a key partner in the work of the United Nations — in peace, development, and human rights”, Mr. Akasaka said. “We are grateful to the Government of Mexico for hosting this Conference and for your excellent cooperation and generous welcome to the NGO community”.

Mr. Akasaka noted that civil society has gathered to discuss nuclear disarmament at an important time in history, when global leaders and statesmen are questioning whether nuclear weapons are indispensable to peace and security, while costs and dangers of nuclear weapons are mounting.

Calling attention to the Security Council summit-level meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Mr. Akasaka said that progress in these areas would mean “the world would be off to a good start on its journey to a world free of nuclear weapons”.

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*“This is also an opportunity — on the eve of major international discussions — for our NGO partners to raise awareness of the true costs and dangers of nuclear weapons, and of disarmament as a vital means to peace and development”. **Kiyo Akasaka***

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He said progress in disarmament would contribute to progress in peace and development and liberate significant resources that could be used for education, health, the environment and the Millennium Development Goals.

“We must work together to build on the hard won achievements by civil society on disarmament — from the banning of landmines to the outlawing of cluster munitions — and influence Governments to adopt enlightened disarmament and arms control policies”, Mr. Akasaka said. “This is also an opportunity — on the eve of major international discussions — for our NGO



partners to raise awareness of the true costs and dangers of nuclear weapons, and of disarmament as a vital means to peace and development”.

In a special appeal to the youth in attendance, Mr. Akasaka urged them to learn about the links among disarmament, peace and development, become informed, and join disarmament campaigns. He reminded them that they can make a difference in their communities and beyond.



In her welcoming remarks on behalf of the host country during the Opening Ceremony, **Ambassador Patricia Espinosa Cantellano**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, noted that nuclear weapons are a danger to international peace and security and an intolerable threat to human survival. She noted that Mexico’s objective has been to eliminate, from the face of Earth, the threat that sways over humanity.

Citing the Conference’s theme, Ms. Espinosa said disarmament is a way to a world of peace, a world with enough food, water, housing, medicine and schools for everyone. “Disarm now, on behalf of our dignity as human beings and of the inalienable rights of the next generations”, she said.

Ms. Espinosa said the global community had thought that the end of the Cold War would bring an end to the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and the elimination of nuclear weapons. However, she continued, nuclear arsenals continue to exist and threaten human life since more countries today possess nuclear weapons than in the past.

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*“We want to continue working closely with all of you. Contemporary international relations cannot be conceived without the active participation of civil society organizations. States and international organizations are no longer the only key players in multilateral discussions. Organized civil society has gained a place in the most important multilateral fora and we must be all very proud of that”.* **Patricia Espinosa Cantellano**

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**Patricia Espinosa Cantellano**

“But not everything is lost: we observe with satisfaction the beginning of the negotiation of a strategic arms reduction treaty between Russia and the United States, as well as the fact that some nuclear powers are talking about the need to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world for the first time. We must work towards making it a reality. And all of you play a fundamental role in this task”, she said.

Ms. Espinosa said Mexico feels that this is the right moment to establish a partnership among civil society, states and international organizations in order to make significant achievements in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. She said it is also the right moment to move forward with the prohibition of conventional weapons that

cause indiscriminate harm and provide a stronger momentum to the struggle against the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. She added that Mexico views with great concern the trafficking of small and light weapons.

According to Ms. Espinosa, disarmament and non-proliferation are and will continue to be priorities in Mexico's foreign policy. Mexico, she added, wants to continue working closely with all NGOs, without whose active participation, contemporary international relations cannot be conceived.

She assured the participants that Mexico, which is currently a member of the Security Council, and its President, Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, will actively participate in the Security Council Summit on Disarmament with the purpose of promoting compliance with all multilateral treaties on disarmament and working for a nuclear weapons-free world. She added Mexico will introduce to the Security Council the recommendations of this Conference.



**UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**, in his address at the Opening Ceremony of the Conference, recalled that the driving force behind Latin America becoming a nuclear-weapons-free zone was a Mexican, Alfonso García Robles, whose work earned him a Nobel Peace Prize. This achievement served as an example for four more regions — including the entire continent of Africa — to become nuclear-weapons-free zones.

Addressing the representatives of civil society at the Conference, Mr. Ban said the term “international community” does not bring to mind for him a gathering of representatives of states but rather the first words of the United Nations Charter: “We the peoples of the United Nations”.



**Ban Ki-moon**

“People are the ultimate sovereigns. This Conference is intended to give an opportunity to individuals and non-governmental groups from around the world to learn from each other and to teach us all about how we can achieve the great goals of peace, development and disarmament”, he said.

Mr. Ban reminded the audience that the reason they are attending such a Conference is that the world is over-armed and development is under-funded. “We are here because these priorities are reversed”, he said.

“Military spending continues to rise. A generation after the end of the Cold War, it is now well above \$1 trillion a year. More weapons are being produced. Their destructive power is being enhanced. They are flooding markets around the world. They feed the flames of civil wars. They are traded by governments and illicit traders alike. They are acquired and used by terrorists. There are also still over 20,000 nuclear weapons in this world. Many are still on high-alert”.



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*"People are the ultimate sovereigns. This Conference is intended to give an opportunity to individuals and non-governmental groups from around the world to learn from each other and to teach us all about how we can achieve the great goals of peace, development and disarmament".* **Ban Ki-moon**

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While the end of the Cold War brought hope that nuclear weapons would be eliminated, Mr. Ban said the world still faces serious nuclear threats as more than a dozen nuclear tests have been made in the post-Cold War era. The international community has negotiated a treaty to outlaw all nuclear explosions, but it has not yet entered into force, he said.

Furthermore, the world lacks multilateral legal norms regarding long-range missiles and while many countries have agreed to ban anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions, some major players choose to remain outside these obligations, he said. States have also worked tirelessly for a global ban on the production of fissile materials for use in nuclear explosives, but obstacles continue to frustrate negotiations, he noted. An international Programme of Action has been adopted to curtail the illicit trade in small arms, but it also faces great challenges in achieving its goals.

Mr. Ban said the arms race has been costly, adding that a 10-year study by the Brookings Institution estimated that the United States has spent more than \$5.6 trillion on nuclear weapons alone. "Imagine the possible alternative uses of those resources. Even a tiny fraction could contribute significantly to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals", he said.

On the positive side, he said, the United States and the Russian Federation, which possess the largest nuclear arsenals, are now seeking to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world, which is in accordance with their obligations under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Mr. Ban indicated that many states have come to realize that such weapons lack credible military value, and that their perpetuation only generates more reasons for their proliferation. He said they have learned how the doctrine of nuclear deterrence has proven contagious, spreading from country to country in the misguided belief that it will provide the ultimate defence.

The elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, coupled with the limitation of conventional arms, represent what is known as "general and complete disarmament", which has been a goal of the United Nations since 1959 and was adopted by the General Assembly as an "ultimate objective" in 1978.

The UN Secretary-General emphasized that finding a solution to nuclear disarmament can be found in a multilateral approach to the issue rather than looking at the problem individually.

He said this renewed multilateralism means that countries and regions would engage with each other in a spirit of trust, cooperation and mutual reliance.

Mr. Ban urged the international community to seize its "golden opportunity" to achieve a world free of nuclear arms.

"We have a campaign. We call it WMD — not Weapons of Mass Destruction — but 'We Must Disarm'", he emphasized, adding that civil society is a full partner of this campaign



**Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann**, president of the 63rd UN General Assembly, in a videotaped message to the Conference participants, pointed out that there are few issues that he feels more strongly about than total nuclear disarmament. While the 1970 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons provided the central institutional framework for global cooperation on nuclear arms control and disarmament for nearly four decades, Mr. Brockmann said this agenda has become nearly moribund.



**Miguel d'Escoto  
Brockmann**

However, he was uplifted by the display of determined activism of civil society organizations that gathered for the Conference to preserve and revitalize public demands for complete and final abolition of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Brockmann said the disarmament movement has become so powerful and broad-based that the Democratic and Republican candidates in the 2008 U.S. presidential elections declared that it would be their intentions to make the elimination of nuclear weapons the explicit policy of the U.S. government. He cited President Barack Obama, who on 5 April 2009 fulfilled that commitment by declaring in a speech delivered in Prague: "I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons".

Furthermore, he said, the United States, the Russian Federation and other nuclear powers have already responded concretely to the new opportunities for disarmament. Metaphorically observing that the door has opened, he urged global society to explore these possibilities and exploit the options they present for achieving nuclear disarmament.

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*"An international commission of experts, with scientists, economists, and others experienced in the handling and tracking of nuclear materials should be convened to provide an objective foundation for the policy decisions that need to be made".* **Miguel d'Escoto Brockman**

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He proposed four steps: First, it is vitally important to set an early date for achieving disarmament, along with a clear, realistic timetable, "and to work hard and be seen to work hard to achieve it". He said he supports the 2020 deadline proposed by the Mayors for Peace in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The second step is to focus on the large new problems that would emerge after the international community has committed itself to the goal of achieving complete elimination of nuclear weapons, not for a brief moment, but forever. Mr. Brockman said this requires that experts as well as negotiators address for the first time the technical and political issues of disarming below minimal thresholds to zero, and also begin serious analysis of what will be required to establish an effective international regime in support of global abolition.

Thirdly, he said, all nuclear weapon "haves", including those outside the NPT regime, should begin to build credibility and enhance the legitimacy of the international non-proliferation regime by placing their own enrichment and weapons programs under international monitoring and inspection regimes. Mr. Brockmann said this step is indispensable if we are going to manage nuclear rivalries in the short run and persuade countries like Iran that we are prepared to accept a peaceful nuclear energy, rather than weapons programme.



Finally, he said, to achieve legitimacy and enhance effectiveness, the whole process needs to be brought fully into the United Nations system. While noting that it is possible, and highly desirable, to have private efforts, independent scientific inquiry, bilateral and other non-UN initiatives, he said, there should be a strong presumption that the findings of all such efforts should be made available to all nation-states through UN agencies. To this end, the UN's organizations should be strengthened to be able to engage as a peer with any governmental agency.



**Miguel Marín Bosch**, in his keynote address during the Opening Ceremony, emphasized that NGOs are very important. While admitting that not all NGOs are reliable, Mr. Bosch said, in general, they help society move towards a world that is less poor and more just, less violent and more decent.

Recalling that for decades NGOs that dealt with disarmament issues were excluded from the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Mr. Bosch, who noted his long association with NGOs, said the situation today is changing and many governments have overcome their “allergy” to NGOs devoted to the subjects of this conference.

Mr. Bosch called the development and use of the most horrific instruments of war the “worst sin committed by human beings”. Among the weapons that he referred to were bacteriological (biological) and toxin, chemical and atomic or nuclear, all of which were used in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Since 1945, he said, one of the goals of the international debates and negotiations has been the complete prohibition of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). While critics of the UN's efforts in this area have pointed out that small and light weapons have made many more victims than have WMDs, Mr. Bosch sarcastically said, “Think of the machete, the weapon that has caused the most deaths over the past 15 years”.

Nonetheless, WMDs are still the “greatest danger” the world faces, he said, and nuclear weapons, in particular, put at risk the very survival of the planet — “Thus the importance of trying to ban them”.

Mr. Bosch went on to review several disarmament agreements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which were concluded under suspect circumstances.

He said the first one was in the early 1960s when U.S. President John F. Kennedy and U.K. Prime Minister Harold MacMillan decided to put an end to atmospheric nuclear testing. They convinced the Soviet Union to do the same and the three sat down to draft what in 1963 became the PTBT, the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water. This was done, Mr. Bosch said, because these three nations had begun testing their weapons underground.

In 1971, he continued, the PTBT's three authors created the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed



**Miguel Marín Bosch**

and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof. Actually, Mr. Bosch said, the signatories simply banned what no one wanted to do.

In 1972, Mr. Bosch related, came the third example: the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Traditionally, biological and chemical weapons had been addressed jointly. But in 1971, the United Kingdom proposed that the Geneva Conference negotiate an agreement banning biological weapons only because, in 1969, incoming President Richard Nixon decided unilaterally to eliminate biological weapons from the United States' arsenal. The Soviet Union agreed and the Convention was drafted.

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*“Nuclear weapons are intrinsically dangerous. They pose an unparalleled threat to the very existence of humankind. They do not enhance a country’s security but rather imperil the survival of all nations. That should be the point of departure of nuclear disarmament efforts”.* **Miguel Marín Bosch**

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Twenty years later the Geneva Conference concluded the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, Mr. Bosch said, noting that again the role of the U.S. military was a determining factor. After the first Gulf War the American side concluded that chemical weapons had lost their usefulness in view of the fact that highly sophisticated conventional weapons could defeat a large army, he said. The negotiations in Geneva went fast and the Convention was drafted in a few months.

The final example is the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which the Conference on Disarmament concluded in 1996, he said. It turned out that laboratory tests with very sophisticated computers could do the same task of detonating nuclear weapons in the atmosphere. In 1993 President Clinton had declared a unilateral moratorium on all nuclear tests. Russia was in a similar position, and the United Kingdom, which tested in Nevada, simply could no longer do so in light of Clinton’s decision. As in the case of France, China was also close to acquiring the capacity to test in laboratories. And both achieved it in a few years. Once again, military activity was suspended as a result of a unilateral decision by the United States, Mr. Bosch said.

Mr. Bosch said a very simple conclusion can be drawn from the foregoing descriptions of the origin of some disarmament treaties — to attain nuclear disarmament it is necessary for the United States military to conclude that those weapons are not necessary and should be eliminated. Given the political climate in Washington, it is difficult to contemplate such a possibility in the near future, he added.

Though he noted that realistically nuclear disarmament will be achieved when the U.S. government decides it is time, Mr. Bosch said other paths should also be explored. A world conference to draft a treaty, outside of the UN and the Geneva Conference, for the elimination of nuclear weapons, is a feasible alternative, he said.

“Nuclear weapons are intrinsically dangerous. They pose an unparalleled threat to the very existence of humankind. They do not enhance a country’s security but rather imperil the survival of all nations. That should be the point of departure of nuclear disarmament efforts”, he concluded.





**Jody Williams**, in her keynote address at the Opening Ceremony, reflected on growing up in the 1950s and 1960s as part of the “duck and cover” generation, saying it was inherently absurd to teach children that they could survive a nuclear attack by hiding under their classroom desks.

“It’s absurd that children were taught to believe that curling up into a ball underneath their tiny grade school desks would protect them from direct nuclear attack”, Ms. Williams said. “We must stop accepting such nuclear absurdity.”

Ms. Williams offered several examples of successful disarmament campaigns, which were organized by civil society partnering with governments. Among them she listed the Mine Ban Treaty of 1997 and the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

“Of course landmines and cluster munitions are not the only weapons of concern. NGO work to stop the proliferation of small arms and light weapons — a very daunting goal — continues unabated”, she said.



**Jody Williams**

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*“One extremely important opportunity for NGOs to work on is to make sure that the issue of a nuclear weapons convention is raised at the upcoming Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (the NPT) due to be held in New York in May 2010. This is, of course, in addition to all the efforts being made to ensure a strong and successful outcome of that Review Conference”. **Jody Williams***

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Ms. Williams urged NGOs to force countries to meet their long-standing obligations under Article 26 of the UN Charter, which calls for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments.

However, she characterized nuclear disarmament as the “absolutely critical issue” of the moment. With the global community standing at “a crossroads of historic proportion,” Ms. Williams said society can stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons, eliminate them completely and start building sustainable peace and security, or it can listen to strong words followed by weak actions.

She said that recently she has been heartened by the very public disarmament efforts, spearheaded by such prominent figures as Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, William Perry and Sam Nunn. Another positive development, according to her, was the launching in December 2008 of Global Zero, which brought together former heads of states and other political and military leaders in support of a plan for the phased, verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons.

Ms. Williams left her greatest praise for U.S. President Barack Obama, who, she said, has committed the United States to “seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons”.

She said the first step to nuclear disarmament is creating a coherent strategy, which has at its core a nuclear weapons convention — an idea enunciated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his five-point disarmament proposal.

“Talk about a world free of nuclear weapons is simply not serious unless governments are willing to put a nuclear weapons convention on the agenda”, she said. “Model Nuclear Weapons Convention drawn up by NGOs simply offers suggested ways to think about addressing some of the tough technical, legal and verification problems likely to be encountered — but they are just suggestions meant to be helpful, not to usurp the role of governments”.

Ms. Williams said getting the nuclear weapons convention message to governments is “one of the greatest challenges facing civil society today”. She urged NGOs to make sure that this issue is raised at the upcoming Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that will be held in New York in May 2010.

Other key objectives for NGOs, according to her, are getting individual countries as well as NATO to change their nuclear doctrine, working for the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and pressing countries to stop nuclear hypocrisy.

Furthermore, she said, NGOs must inform President Obama that they want the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review to replace the current aggressive nuclear policies with a doctrine that clearly and unequivocally moves the world toward nuclear disarmament.

“If I could only make one concrete suggestion to NGOs, networks, and coalitions to abolish nuclear weapons it would revolve around communication, communication and more communication”, she said.



**Charles “Chuck” Hitchcock**, Chair of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference, opened the Conference by thanking the NGOs and civil society for participating in the Conference and helping to make it a success.

Mr. Hitchcock especially thanked the NGOs from Mexico in attendance, noting that the Mexican Government was instrumental in suggesting that this Conference be held in Mexico City and be devoted to disarmament and development.

He said one of the ramifications of holding the Conference in Mexico was the concentrated effort to reach out to non-governmental organizations in Mexico and throughout Central America, the Caribbean, and South America.

Mr. Hitchcock also noted that the time is right for more concern about the disarmament process, both in terms of nuclear weapons and conventional ones. The United States and Russia are poised for substantive discussions, which could mean a new opening for meaningful actions



in reducing the world's nuclear stockpile, he said. Mr. Hitchcock further indicated that in terms of reducing the role of small arms, members of CLAVE (the Coalicion Latinoamericana par la Prevencion de la Violencia Armada) will share with the participants their best practices in a break-out group.

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*"So to those of you who are attending your first UN sponsored conference, we welcome you. We are especially pleased that many of you have traveled long distances from Africa and Asia to join with us in discussing issues of disarmament and the control of small arms".* **Charles "Chuck" Hitchcock**

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## Roundtable I

### Zero Nuclear Weapons, Zero Weapons of Mass Destruction: Why, How, When?

The first step in defining the concept of zero nuclear weapons is the public dissemination of information by governments regarding their current stocks of nuclear weapons.

This Roundtable was moderated by **Olga Pellicer (Mexico)**, Professor of International Studies at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM); and included as panelists **Jacqueline Cabasso (U.S.)**, Executive Director, Western States Legal Foundation; **Waheguru Pal Singh Sidhu (India)**, Vice President of Programmes, EastWest Institute; and **Alexander Pikayev (Russia)**, World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), Moscow.

**Ambassador Olga Pellicer** opened the Roundtable by describing recent developments related to nuclear disarmament. Ms. Pellicer indicated that the renewal of negotiations on strategic weapons between Russia, the United States and the UN Security Council Summit on Nuclear Disarmament on 24 September, are encouraging signs for nuclear disarmament. She reasoned

NGOs pondered their post-Conference involvement in disarmament affairs.







Questions  
from the  
audience

that these events reveal that nuclear disarmament is becoming an increasingly important part of the agendas of diverse states and international organizations.

Among these events, she said, are the upcoming Summit at the UN Security Council in New York and the negotiations between Russia and the United States. However, she remarked, there are still important reasons for pessimism, such as the proliferation of arms in recent years and the increasing risk of non-state actors controlling nuclear weapons in the future. Ms. Pellicer then invited the speakers to comment on why, how and when the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved given this confluence of global events.

**Jacqueline Cabasso** began by describing how the international mood about nuclear disarmament has evolved since the end of the Cold War. In the United States, for example, she stated that the initial optimism quickly abated as special interest groups managed to preserve and enhance this country's nuclear weapons projects. Regarding statements by President Barack Obama on nuclear disarmament, she opined that the U.S. President needs civil society's support because there are groups in his Administration that are interested in preserving an effective nuclear deterrent.

As for the review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in May 2010, Ms. Cabasso urged international civil society groups to mount disarmament demonstrations and send petitions to all the stakeholders, demanding that governments initiate negotiations on a treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2020. Organizations, such as Mayors for Peace, are already working towards the attainment of that goal. Ms. Cabasso revealed that several international civil society groups are planning a major international conference in New York on disarmament, peace and development and a rally on 1 May and 2 May 2010, respectively.

Ms. Cabasso concluded by quoting the mission statement adopted by several non-governmental organizations such as Abolition 2000 and United for Peace and Justice: "Nuclear disarmament should serve as the leading edge of a global trend towards demilitarization and redirection of resources to meet human needs and restore the environment".

**Waheguru Pal Singh Sidhu** explained several key factors that contribute to a successful nuclear disarmament process. Both horizontal and vertical proliferation should be addressed, he noted. The former referred to the acquisition of nuclear weapons by countries that previously did not possess them, and the latter to the technological improvement of nuclear weapons by countries that already possess them. The disarmament process should also be concerned about non-state actors' willingness to acquire or sell nuclear capabilities, he said.

According to Mr. Sidhu, the international community has to arrive at a consensus on three important questions before advancing in nuclear disarmament. First, the international community has to develop a common understanding of the concept of "zero nuclear weapons", since governments have not yet agreed on a definite goal for a disarmament process. The second question pertains to determining the best approach to achieving a global consensus on the concept of "zero nuclear weapons". Mr. Sidhu said a combination of international treaties, multilateral negotiations and enforcement procedures, and, in some cases, ad hoc measures, is the most realistic route towards nuclear disarmament. Finally, the international community should agree on measures that make disarmament transparent and verifiable, so it can be definitive and irreversible.

**Alexander Pikayev** focused his presentation on the current nuclear disarmament negotiation process between Russia and the United States under the framework of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms I (START I), which is set to expire in December 2009. He described several factors that obscure the prospects for a new nuclear deal between these countries. For instance, he said, despite President Obama's speeches calling for nuclear disarmament, his Administration's strategy on nuclear weapons has not yet been clearly formulated.

According to Mr. Pikayev, American negotiators need to know their government's policy before they can achieve meaningful progress in their negotiations with their Russian counterparts. The outlook for a new deal between Russia and the United States has also been clouded by each country's views on nuclear disarmament, such as counting existing nuclear weapons stocks and the means to reduce nuclear warheads. Since these contrasting positions must be reconciled, negotiations between these countries will take time and the process of disarmament will probably be delayed.

During the ensuing question-and-answer period, the audience raised issues concerning information and transparency. In response, Mr. Sidhu, pointed out that the first step in defining the concept of "zero nuclear weapons" is the public dissemination of information by governments regarding their current stocks of nuclear weapons. He said countries should follow the example of India and Pakistan, which have for years exchanged information on their nuclear arsenals.

The Roundtable was an excellent opportunity for NGOs in the audience to increase their knowledge on nuclear disarmament. The speakers reminded the audience of the reasons for optimism and pessimism on these issues, and explained the complexity of the current situation. They highlighted that international civil society groups can play a constructive role in advancing the cause of nuclear disarmament, specifically by demanding relevant information from their governments, pressing them to negotiate and then abide by new international commitments.



## Roundtable II:

### Removing the Tools of Armed Violence

Disarmament requires not only the physical elimination of arms, but also a long and complex process to eliminate violence within society.

This Roundtable was moderated by **Ambassador Pablo Macedo (Mexico)**, Director General, United Nations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, and Chairperson-designate for the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS4) to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; and included panelists, **Alexander Gálvez (Guatemala)**, Co-founder and Executive Director, Transitions Foundation of Guatemala; **Alfredo Ferrariz Lubang (Philippines)**, Regional Representative, Nonviolence International Southeast Asia; and **Christiane Agboton Johnson (Senegal)**, Deputy Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

**Ambassador Pablo Macedo** opened the Roundtable recalling that in 2006 the term “armed violence” had been adopted by 42 countries in the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development. Furthermore, he mentioned that, for the first time, the Declaration addressed the impact of armed violence on sustainable development, and the grave consequences it produced for affected societies. Ambassador Macedo established that work should be conducted at the international level to combat the illicit trade of small arms and ammunition.

The Roundtable continued with **Alexander Gálvez** recounting his struggles after being wounded by a bullet in Guatemala, his native country. He emphasized the need to improve aid programmes geared toward victims, given that in conflict situations these programmes are often times the most neglected sector of society. Mr. Gálvez insisted on recognizing the work conducted by organizations of civil society, such as **Fundación Transiciones**, which is dedicated to facilitating the progress of social reintegration for victims of armed violence.

Mr. Macedo then stressed the fact that poverty does not necessarily lead to violence. As an example, he noted that in Mexico the areas most affected by armed violence are also the most socially and economically developed; while the two states with the lowest rate of violence are those which are least developed.

**Alfredo Ferrariz Lubang** continued the discussion, describing the consequences that result from the use of illegal arms. He stated that each year more than 740,000 people die as a result of armed violence, with most of these deaths occurring outside of conflicts. According to a study conducted by the World Health Organization, armed violence is one of the ten leading causes of death in over 40 countries, he said. Mr. Lubang also stressed that armed violence has serious economic consequences, straining tax revenues, and affecting infrastructure and human capital, insomuch that up to \$93 million are lost each year.

Christiane  
Agboton  
Johnson,  
Alfredo  
Ferrariz  
Lubang and  
Ambassador  
Pablo Macedo



**Christiane Agboton Johnson** began her presentation by indicating that disarmament should be understood according to the hemisphere in which it is being pursued. Therefore, based on her experience in Africa, eliminating the instruments of armed violence equates to eliminating small arms and conventional weapons. She argued that success in this task is based on the synergy and cooperation among different actors involved, from victims and NGOs, to Intergovernmental Organizations and, of course, States. In addition, Ms. Johnson mentioned that disarmament requires not only the physical elimination of arms, but also a long and complex process to eliminate violence within society.

In conclusion, Mr. Macedo stated that in the existing global environment of economic distress and armed violence, governments, international organizations, and civil society must participate in the creation of avant-garde public policies that are responsive to the world's current realities.

Many of the questions focused on the responsibility of States to control the illicit arms trade, as well as the role of other relevant actors.

Ms. Agboton Johnson mentioned that it is the responsibility of all actors to control the arms trade; it cannot be left to States alone. Therefore, the United Nations must establish more efficient mechanisms, which include all actors involved in the production, storage and trade of weapons, to combat the trade in arms, she said.

According to Mr. Ferrariz Lubang, improvements in the control of arms trade can be achieved if negotiations on producing a Treaty on Arms Trade begin during the next year; a matter which will be decided in the 64<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations.

Lastly, Mr. Gálvez expressed his concern for the indiscriminate purchase of arms occurring in communities around the globe. He emphasized the need of fomenting a culture of peace in all countries, particularly those which have produced armed conflicts.



## Roundtable III

### Human Development is Global Security

Development must be considered in conjunction with, as opposed to independent of, global security.

This Roundtable was moderated by **Carmen Rosa de Leon-Espinoza (Guatemala)**, Executive Director, Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible (IEPADES); and included as panelists **Frida Berrigan (U.S.)**, Senior Programme Associate, Arms and Security Initiative; **Juan Ramon de la Fuente (Mexico)**, President of the International Association of Universities (IAU) and Member of the Board of the United Nations University; and **Rosa Anaya (El Salvador)**, General Coordinator, "Colectivo de Derechos Humanos Herbert Anaya" CDH-HAS.

The session was structured as an interactive dialogue that began with presentations by the panelists and concluded with a question-and-answer period. Key ideas included the identification of human development points that are integral in global security, and the need for a coordinated multilateral system to redirect arms investments towards education, health care, and job opportunities. Furthermore, it was agreed that these two issues, human development and global security, are inextricably linked.

The question-and-answer period evolved into a lively forum, in which the following key points were raised:

- The environment is an indispensable factor in global security.
- Education is an essential tool to communicate the significance of human development in global security. Furthermore, the education process should not be limited to classrooms, but also include real world experiences to reinforce this message.
- Increased U.S. investment in high-technology military weapons is incompatible with equal investment in human development.
- Civil society plays a vital role in implementing a reduction in military spending and advocating for social securities.

The panelists and NGO representatives concluded that the term "global security", which had only referred to the absence of war and arms, must now undergo a paradigm shift to include human development. The combination of both will ensure a world free of fear and need.

The panelists focused on specific factors of human development that they regarded as essential to ensuring global security. Moderator **Carmen Rosa de Leon-Espinoza** suggested that global security should not be dependent on the accumulation of arms, but should be linked to the availability of jobs and the quality of an education system. She called on the panelists to evaluate global security on the basis of how it ensures and incorporates human development.

**Frida Berrigan**, Senior Programme Associate, Arms and Security Initiative, opened with a personal recollection of her helplessness and desperation on 11 September 2001, which, she

said, helped her identify with the insecurity felt by refugees around the world. She said the U.S. led war in Iraq—in response to this terrorism—was an ineffective means of achieving global security. This approach, she stated, did not directly address the problem, but instead exacerbated the issue and created more victims of war and insecurity. Ms. Berrigan used the

example of this war to illustrate the long-term, ineffective results of military spending and advocate for investment in social development. Specifically, she suggested that global security should be measured by the quality and availability of health clinics, education and job opportunities rather than high-tech military weapons. To reach this end, she recommended that the Millennium Development Goals should be placed at the centre of international and national goals. She specified that development must be considered in conjunction with, as opposed to independent of, global security. Ms. Berrigan concluded by encouraging NGO representatives to reclaim their power and resources within their nations and demand that funds be redirected towards peace efforts rather than arms accumulation.



**Frida Berrigan**

**Juan Ramon de la Fuente**, President of the International Association of Universities (IAU) and Member of the Board of the United Nations University, called for a reexamination of human development, which he stated “represents global security”. He noted that it is essential to focus on the equality of peoples among and also within nations, to assure human development.



**Juan Ramon de la Fuente**

To ensure that each state is not only economically efficient, but also socially equitable, he said there must be a synthesis of sustainable development, democratic states, a coordinated multilateral system, and a transparent UN that consistently reports on the progress of development. Mr. de la Fuente criticized unregulated market economies, which he stated were far from offering equal opportunities needed for global security. He stated that only dialogue can set a consensus for global security and the current system should not be tolerated. He believes that the UN is the best and only way to carry out international cooperation and ensure social globalization. In conclusion, he agreed with Ms. Berrigan that the prioritization of the Millennium Development Goals would expedite this process.



**Rosa Anaya**

**Rosa Anaya**, General Coordinator, “Colectivo de Derechos Humanos Herbert Anaya” CDH-HAS, appealed to the audience on a personal level as she recounted her suffering and family loss due to armed violence. She said her experiences allowed her to relate to the audience as an individual faced with insecurity. She spoke confidently, displaying a model of a strong person who had overcome diversity to stand up for human rights. Ms. Anaya called for citizens to stop deferring to their governments to solve development and security problems. She instead called on individuals to reclaim ownership of their human rights and defend them with their voices. Ms. Anaya endorsed social inclusion as a means to establish human rights, because she believes it is crucial to recognize the capacity of all individuals, regardless of their background, to establish a strong community of humans. If all people were recognized, and ensured of their human rights, individuals would not have to depend on arms

trade, because there would be a healthier option, she said. To begin working towards this goal of global security, she stated, patience and personal responsibility are essential. It is not



necessary to rely on academia to solve the fight for global security, she stated, since the people in the street are capable of raising their voices to champion this issue.

The question-and-answer period revealed many NGO concerns regarding the feasibility of integrating human development in global security. For example, one NGO representative noted the absence of the environment in the dialogue, and insisted that the well-being of the planet is essential to a healthy world. The environment must be considered simultaneously, she insisted. In response to this concern, Ms. Anaya acknowledged that to have a sense of unity with the entire world, the environment needs to be included and it is essential to uphold a holistic approach to global security that includes all aspects of the world. She noted that humans are destroying the earth with nuclear weapons, however through disarmament the environment will be more protected. Finally, Ms. Anaya commented that without the earth, we, humans, could not live, thus the inclusion of environmental concerns is indeed essential to conceptualizing global security.

**The UN is the best and only way to carry out international cooperation and ensure social globalization.**

Another NGO participant inquired into the feasibility of U.S. reducing military and arms investments. In response, Ms. Berrigan stated that this was not only possible, but necessary. However, the challenge, she noted, was that many nations, including the U.S., want to cut their military budgets, but no one has taken the responsibility to cut their part. Thus, Ms. Berrigan acknowledged that real political leadership would emerge when nations made efforts to initiate this change. The audience agreed that to ensure a peaceful future, nuclear weapons must be eradicated to prevent the feeling of insecurity in the next generation.

Civil society representatives wanted to know when schools would be given the resources to provide the quality education necessary to ensure greater development of a child. A direct response was not provided, however, the panelists highlighted the importance of integrating human rights and cultural dialogue into school curricula to complete education on global security. Ms. Berrigan insisted that education needs to transcend the classroom and include experiences in the home and the real world to fully conceptualize this issue.

Finally, NGO representatives demanded that the memories of previous conflicts and wars should not be forgotten, but must be remembered in the struggle for global security. Ms. Anaya added that when all humans are valued and respected, then there can be peace.

## Roundtable IV

### New Challenges and Perspectives for Global Development and Security for the 21st Century

The proliferation of small arms has served to increase the risk of children being exposed to violence, either as victims or perpetrators..

This Roundtable was moderated by **Adalberto Saviñón (Mexico)**, Director of the Centro de Investigación, Información y Apoyo a la Cultura, Centro Lindavista; and included as panelists **Hiro Sakurai (Japan)**, Representative to the UN of Soka Gakkai International; **Mokhtar Lamani (Morocco)**, Centre for International Governance and Innovation, Waterloo, Canada; and **Carolina Owens (Peru)**, Chief of Office & Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary-General, Office of Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

**Carolina Owens** began her statement by recognizing the invaluable work of NGOs worldwide on matters of disarmament and security, particularly as it relates to issues of children in crisis situations. She noted that in response to NGOs' efforts, various Member States have begun to address these issues directly.

The work of NGOs in armed conflicts directs attention to the challenges faced by civil society, particularly by vulnerable groups such as children, Ms. Owens said. The international community has implemented various programmes aimed at reintegrating boys and girls of armed conflicts into their communities, recognizing that children are many times forced to relocate due to crisis situations.

Ms. Owens said that it was important to note that 90% of the victims of armed conflicts are civilians; with 80% being women and children. The proliferation of small arms has served to increase the risk of children being exposed to violence, either as victims or perpetrators. Children are often incorporated into guerilla units, or used as suicide bombers or other weapons of war. This constitutes an unquestionable violation of the rights of the child.

Such factors, she said, affect the development of communities, as children are unable to attend school due to armed conflicts. Human development is halted during times of war. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed this issue in an annual report on the status of children in armed conflicts and compiling a "shame list" with the names of countries that have failed to respect and guarantee the rights of children. Ms. Owens said the Security Council then follows up on the Secretary General's report, incorporating the elements of the report into its discussions.

Additionally, she said, the international community has demanded that the International Convention on the Rights of the Child be respected and upheld, with greater participation of the International Court of Justice. Ms. Owens said in the case of Thomas Lubanga, the leader of





Hiro Sakurai,  
Carolina  
Owens,  
Mokhtar  
Lamani and  
Adalberto  
Saviñón

the UCP political movement, was imprisoned for recruiting 15-year-old minors. She said this was a successful example of the implementation of international law.

Ms. Owens closed by saying that the Security Council has prepared an action plan to confront the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and central Africa. The plan calls for working closely with local communities to create educational and economic programmes, while bringing those who are responsible for violating children's rights before an international tribunal.

Hiro Sakurai spoke of his work with Soka Gakkai International (SGI), an organization formed in the 1970s to promote nuclear disarmament by advocating human security and disarmament education.

Mr. Sakurai argued that after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, states around the globe were made more aware of the factors that contribute to security and insecurity. It became necessary to position human security as a vital component of any community because it directly impacts people's daily lives. Based on this, he said, the idea of nuclear disarmament through education came into being.

SGI prepared an exhibition contrasting a person's daily life in the context of armed conflict, peace and sustainable development. Through this, SGI was able to incorporate more people into the nuclear disarmament debate. The exhibit has been shown throughout the world, including at 20 universities in the United States, and has included debates that included students interested in disarmament, Mr. Sakurai noted.

**A balance must be found between issues of disarmament and development and security.**

The Roundtable continued with Mokhtar Lamani, who spoke of his experiences in Iraq. He recalled that he witnessed the bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad, which killed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Lamani later headed the National Reconciliation Project, which for five months heard the voices of different religious, political, and ethnic groups.

He said the National Reconciliation Project demonstrated the fragmentation that resulted from the dismantling of several local institutions, giving way to social confrontation that had been contained for years. As a result of this fragmentation, one-third of the Iraqi population was forced to relocate inside or outside the country.

The United States responded inadequately to this situation, Mr. Lamani said, failing to provide support and protection to the groups that make up Iraqi society. As a result of this alienation, some groups were forced to turn to armed conflict as a means of survival.

Mr. Lamani observed that, confronted with such a situation, it was clear that implementing democratization was a process, not an imposition. In order to achieve any reconstruction, reconciliation is absolutely necessary.

During the question-and-answer session, the audience insisted that a balance that must be found between issues of disarmament and development and security, taking into account that in order to obtain disarmament, it is necessary to promote equality and comprehensive access to justice.

The NGO participants also questioned the apparent contradiction in the actions of the Security Council, which imposed sanctions on countries that violate international humanitarian and political rights, but disregard countries that produce and sell weapons on a global scale.

They noted that UNICEF should implement educational programmes on mediation and non-violent resolution in schools that are inside conflict zones. Local NGOs could be advisors to this project, they said.

In addition, they said, video games and media play a detrimental role in the daily lives of children, while urging stronger control over the content of these media.

NGO representative raises a point.



# Breakout Session One

## Towards an Arms Trade Treaty

### Sponsor:

Coalición Latinoamericana para la Prevención de la Violencia Armada (CLAVE), IANSA.

### Panelists:

Ana Yancy Espinosa, Fundación Arias (Costa Rica)

Yeny Villalba, Centro de Estudios Jurídicos (Paraguay)

César Marín, IANSA (Venezuela)

Alfredo Lubang, Nonviolence International (Philippines)

### Moderator:

Juan José Lima, CEJIP (Bolivia)

### Discussion Highlights:

This session focused on the campaign for an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and included discussions about its history, the ongoing process at the UN, and the urgent need for such an instrument in the Americas. Participants engaged in discussions highlighting the importance of negotiations and an adoption of an ATT as a key element of the broader security, peace and disarmament agenda.

Panelists presented the basic principles of the ATT and emphasized that the treaty be as wide as possible, covering all conventional weapons, ammunition and related components, and take into account all types of conventional arms transfers.

Panelists pointed out that an effective ATT would establish common international standards for authorizing international transfers of conventional arms, based on existing commitments under international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law and respect for socio-economic development. Special attention was given to the need for a treaty that would reduce armed violence and gender-based violence, as these two issues are of particular importance for the Americas.



## Breakout Session Two

### Zero Nuclear Weapons: How to Get There

#### Panelists:

Jacqueline Cabasso, Executive Director, Western States Legal Foundation (U.S.)

Waheguru Pal Singh Sidhu, Vice-President of Programs, EastWest Institute (India/U.S.)

Kevin Martin, Executive Director, Peace Action (U.S.)

Alexander Pikayev, World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), Moscow (Russia)

#### Discussion Highlights:

This session discussed the opportunities for civil society to advocate for nuclear disarmament in the current political climate. With the upcoming Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010, as well as President Barack Obama's commitment to focus on nuclear disarmament issues, the current political climate is poised for progress on disarmament.

The NGO representatives in attendance were knowledgeable about nuclear disarmament and placed it in context with peace and de-militarization, as opposed to existing in a vacuum as a separate issue. They were positive about future changes and the prospects of total nuclear disarmament. Throughout the session, the audience gained an understanding about what it can and needs to do, as an international movement, to take advantage of this historic window of opportunity.

Kevin Martin,  
Waheguru  
Pal Singh  
Sidhu,  
Jacqueline  
Cabasso, and  
Alexander  
Pikayev.



# Closing Ceremony

## Ex Convento San Hipólito

**Kiyo Akasaka**, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, presiding over the Conference's Closing Ceremony, reminded the attendees that the date of 11 September brings to mind events of eight years ago — in 2001. Mr. Akasaka said the day “reminds us all of the urgent need for disarmament. I ask for a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the United States that day”.

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*“This day reminds us all of the urgent need for disarmament. I ask for a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the United States that day”. **Kiyo Akasaka***

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Dwelling on the attendees' excitement with the Conference, Mr. Akasaka said their “enthusiasm has infected us all”.

He expressed his gratitude for the “tremendous warmth” exhibited by the Mexican hosts and partners. The Conference setting, he continued, contributed to a “wonderful atmosphere” and provided “the marvellous opportunity to forge new relations with NGOs in the region”.

Mr. Akasaka said each participant has the right to be proud of what was accomplished at the Conference. The attendees' “renewed optimism and determination”, he said, should help them face the challenges that lay ahead. “Your Declaration reflects the urgency and vital importance of achieving disarmament”, he said.

Finally, Mr. Akasaka said: “A special word of thanks to my own team from the Department of Public Information for all their hard work. To the Government and people of Mexico I say: “Muchisimas gracias por su hospitalidad y generosa acogida, siempre la llevaremos en nuestros corazones”.



**Kiyo Akasaka**



**Roberto Zamora**, lawyer and member of Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, highlighted in his Closing keynote address the inefficient distribution of the world's resources. Mr. Zamora stated that wealth is often invested in arms, rather than in areas of greater need, such as government debt or human development. This reflects, he noted, the international

community's inability to effectively address two primary issues: proliferation of small arms and adherence to the Rule of Law.

Mr. Zamora described instances in which the UN did not uphold the Rule of Law. He said the veto power of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council was unjust. Second, he mentioned the Member States' lack of respect for International Law, demonstrated by the repeated occasions, in which some of them have resisted or ignored the jurisdiction of International Courts. As a solution, he suggested a reexamination and implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the UN Charter. He argued that it is necessary to establish the Rule of Law as a working and active pillar of international politics.

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*"Governments should draft constitutions that promote peace and establish judicial institutions to oversee their fulfillment".* **Roberto Zamora**

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**Roberto Zamora**

The second unresolved issue, said Mr. Zamora, is the continued rise of civilian transactions in small arms. He indicated that there are more than 380 million weapons in the hands of civilians and the number is rising each year. As many citizens use insecurity to justify the need for arms for self-defense, he declared that it is necessary for States to take a more active role in civilian security. Mr. Zamora suggested governments should create legal deterrents for arms acquisition and sign the Arms Trade Treaty. Furthermore, to prevent arms conflict, he suggested that governments should draft constitutions that promote peace and establish judicial institutions to oversee their fulfillment. Finally, he urged states to establish mechanisms, through the United Nations, that will enforce this principle.

Mr. Zamora pointed out a new obstacle for disarmament. In these economically challenging times, he noted, the international community must resist exploiting inexpensive arms production in developing countries. The arms race cannot become a means to economic development, he insisted. Finally, he congratulated the Conference organizers and called for the continuous search for greater peace.



**Sergio Duarte**, the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, in his remarks during the Closing Ceremony, referred to the skepticism surrounding disarmament and recalled that several decades ago Ambassador Zenon Rossides, former Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the UN, defined the verb "to disarm" as "an irregular verb with no first person singular and only a future tense".

Indeed, he pointed out that even today there are significant gaps between words and deeds in the field of disarmament. Mr. Duarte said governments, especially with respect to nuclear disarmament, have tended to treat this as an "ultimate goal" or "distant vision" rather than as an obligation requiring concrete actions.



At the same time, there are encouraging developments that demonstrate that the idea of nuclear disarmament is finding political support, he said.

Mr. Duarte noted that the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States have made individual and joint statements affirming their commitment to this goal, and they have stated that they view this responsibility as deriving from their obligations under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Then, he continued, on 24 September, the UN Security Council will meet for its first-ever summit addressing nuclear disarmament issues, and U.S. President Obama will preside over that meeting. The UN will also host a meeting of signatories to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to consider ways to promote its early entry into force.

Finally, Mr. Duarte said, preparatory procedural work for the 2010 NPT Review Conference has been completed on a positive note. The Conference on Disarmament has broken a 12-year stalemate and seems poised to begin work early next year on a fissile material treaty, he said.



Sergio Duarte

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*"You have sent a strong signal that civil society must be included as an active participant in the process of achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world. Countless disarmament groups have supported this goal for many years. What is changing today is the diversity of groups that are involved in this process—diverse both substantively and geographically". Sergio Duarte*

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"Authoritative voices all over the world have been raised in favour of the need for serious efforts towards eliminating nuclear weapons, preventing proliferation, and ensuring the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Almost one year ago, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon presented his five-point plan for nuclear disarmament, which he elaborated in his opening address to this Conference", he said.

In order to achieve nuclear disarmament, Mr. Duarte said, civil society has accomplished a great deal. NGOs have sent a strong signal that civil society must be included as an active participant in the process of achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world, he said, a goal supported by countless disarmament groups for many years. He specifically noted that today a "substantively and geographically diverse" group of NGOs is supporting this goal.

A great deal has also been accomplished in the realm of curtailing illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, he said, acknowledging the invaluable contributions from women in advancing new controls and in addressing victims' needs.

Reflecting on the Conference's deliberations, Mr. Duarte said he senses the emergence of a genuine community of shared interests and values — one resembling a family. "One of the key aims of this conference was to promote networking among the participants — and I know that a lot of business cards got exchanged here in the last three days", he said.

Concluding his statement, Mr. Duarte expressed his belief that all of the attendees stand for something very important in this world and are willing to devote their time and trouble to pursue it. "My colleagues and I at the Office for Disarmament Affairs are eager to work with you as we commence the challenging journey that lies ahead. Let our common journey begin today", he said.



**Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba** of Hiroshima, in his closing Call to Action, acknowledged the efforts of U.S. President Barack Obama in re-energizing the current campaign for nuclear disarmament. Mr. Akiba said the Mayors for Peace and the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, especially the “hibakusha”, a Japanese word for the survivors of the atomic bombings, enthusiastically welcome his commitment.



**Tadatoshi Akiba**

“And we are determined not only to support President Obama but to work even harder than we did before, and even harder than the President himself so that a nuclear-weapons-free world will be realized by 2020”, he said.

Mr. Akiba said he would dub this contemporary campaign the “Cosmos Revolution”.

“First, cosmos is one of my favorite flowers. To my amazement, I found out it is not common outside Japan. It is a beautiful flower. Also, the cosmos is where we live, and that is exactly what we would like to protect from nuclear destruction. Another reason is that Dr. Carl Sagan, I hope you remember him, wrote a book called ‘Cosmos’, in which he pointed out that if a nuclear exchange were to occur, the result would be nuclear winter, famine and other terrible results. That’s why President Obama said that the results of a nuclear exchange would be unimaginable”, he explained. “Finally and most importantly, COSMOS is an acronym for a committee to which I used to belong—the Committee to Send the Meaning of Survival. This was a group of young volunteers in Hiroshima and Boston that translated the 35-year chronicle of the sufferings and triumphs of hibakusha. And they sent this finished product to people all over the world as a present. Although the physical manifestation of the gift was a book, what the committee wanted to send was more. This committee sent the message of hibakusha, which is the meaning of survival for these people. And that meaning can be paraphrased in this expression — ‘No one else should ever suffer as we did’”.

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*“And we are determined not only to support President Obama but to work even harder than we did before, and even harder than the President himself so that a nuclear-weapons-free world will be realized by 2020”. **Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba***

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Mr. Akiba announced that since the last NPT Review, more than 2,000 cities have joined Mayors for Peace. Its 3,000-plus cities represent more than 600 million people. “Yesterday, I met Mayor Ebrard, who has signed up Mexico City, adding 18 million more people to our growing total”, he added.

He listed four reasons why civil society should earnestly campaign for nuclear disarmament:

“One, the power for change comes from within ourselves, and we should use it in historical context. Principle two is that life—in the sense of life and death and the sense of everyday

life—the life of each person is very important, and we should work together for our common good. Start from your family, neighborhood and broaden your sphere of activities to engulf all humanity. The third principle is we do all this for our children. And the fourth principle is that we need leaders who do not recycle the old frameworks and who can bring out the better angels of our nature. And all leaders in every country around disarmament activities really fall in that category”.

He urged the non-governmental organizations to promote nuclear disarmament not only at the highest levels of their governments but also at the local and municipal seats of government.

“So please talk to your mayor and urge him or her to join. Please also ask your spouse and friends to come along with you. The more, the better. It’s easier to find people and go to City Hall and see the mayor than it is to go to the White House and see the President. And in fact, it will be much better because you can meet more mayors, more people and, in the end, you can have more influence”, he said.

Mr. Akiba said he firmly believes that the countries of the world can abolish nuclear weapons by 2020 and in tribute to that accomplishment, he suggested, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki should be the hosts of the 2020 Olympic Games.



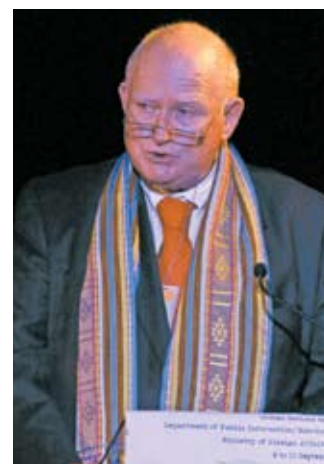
**Charles “Chuck” Hitchcock**, Chair of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference, in his closing remarks expressed his gratitude to Maria-Luisa Chávez, Co-Chair of the Planning Committee and Chief of DPI/NGO Relations for her efforts in making the Conference a success. He also thanked Jessica Rojas Alegría, Coordinator of the Mexican NGO Focal group, for her contributions.

Mr. Hitchcock then thanked other members of the Mexican NGO Focal Group, the New York Planning Committee, members of the Conference Board, the Mexican Government’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Perla Flores of the Mexican Permanent Mission to the UN for her weekly involvement with DPI and the NGO community, Eric Falt, Director of the Outreach Division in the Department of Public Information, Jeff Huffines, Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.

Alluding to remarks by Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, Mr. Hitchcock said the devastation caused by the explosion of the atomic bomb over his community cannot be tolerated again. “We used to talk about a nuclear arsenal being the best weapon against nuclear warfare”, Mr. Hitchcock said, “but in today’s world, where we have a proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, it can no longer be used as a feasible defense”.

He said civilization’s only hope is the day when all nuclear weapons would be abolished and nuclear power would no longer be used.

As for conventional arms, Mr. Hitchcock urged civil society to call on their governments to adopt a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty to stop weapons from being



**Charles "Chuck"  
Hitchcock**



used to fuel conflict, poverty and human rights abuses. He said growing global defense budgets have to be significantly reduced if the world will be able to make any headway in pursuing the Millennium Development Goals.

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*“The lives of billions of human beings on this earth are dependent upon a standard of living that is based on earnings of not more than a few hundred U.S. dollars a year”. **Charles “Chuck” Hitchcock***

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“The lives of billions of human beings on this earth are dependent upon a standard of living that is based on earnings of not more than a few hundred U.S. dollars a year. A 10% reduction of global military spending or 121 American dollars per person would be enough money to bring the fundamentals of life to all human beings: drinking water, basic food, health care and universal primary education. This is a realistic goal with not that much sacrifice, and one that might be more readily achieved if there were significant numbers of women at all levels of decision making and at peace making tables”, he said.

Mr. Hitchcock finally presented to the NGOs the Declaration on Disarming for Peace and Development that was unanimously adopted. He gave one copy of the Declaration to Under-Secretary-General Kiyo Akasaka to deliver to the Secretary-General; another copy to Sergio Duarte, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, to present to the President of the Security Council, and two additional copies he would deliver to the outgoing and incoming Presidents of the General Assembly.

Dais at the  
Closing  
Ceremony:  
(from left)  
Roberto  
Zamora,  
Sergio Duarte,  
Charles  
Hitchcock,  
Kiyo Akasaka  
and Tadatoshi  
Akiba.



# NGO Declaration: Disarming for Peace and Development

## 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference

### INTRODUCTION

We, the 1,300 participants representing over 340 Non-Governmental Organizations from more than 55 countries, are

*Determined*, as expressed in the United Nations Charter, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to promote social progress and better standards of life;

*Alarmed* that 1000 people per day are killed by small arms and 3000 more are seriously injured;

*Inspired* by the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century (A/54/98), a 50-point proposal to transform a culture of violence into a culture of peace, and *abolish* war;

*Guided* by the UN Secretary-General's 24 October 2008 five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament;

*Committed* to promoting respect for cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity to reach peace and security;

*Recognize* that security, peace, disarmament, human rights, gender equality and development are closely interconnected at the local, national, regional and global levels;

*Recognize* that progress in these fields is essential for attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which also links this year's meeting to recent DPI/NGO meetings on climate change and human rights;

*Having met* at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference in Mexico City from 9-11 September 2009;

### We urge the following actions:

#### TO GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

#### Nuclear Disarmament

1. At the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, reaffirm and strengthen commitments to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and concurrently prevent their spread.
2. Promptly commence negotiations on a convention that globally prohibits and eliminates nuclear weapons within an agreed time-bound framework.
3. Obtain the necessary signatures and ratifications to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force without further delay and conditions.
4. Complete negotiations on a treaty that bans production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons, brings all weapons-usable materials under safeguards, and fosters reduction of existing stocks.

5. Consolidate existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, promote cooperation between members of such zones, and create new zones with the goal of achieving, in the near future, a global nuclear-weapon-free zone.
6. At the 24 September 2009 UN Security Council Summit, decide to propose plans for disarmament as provided by the UN Charter, and reform the Council to make it more representative, accountable and therefore more capable of responding to violations of disarmament and non-proliferation obligations.
7. Declare 27 October as the International Day for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons.
8. Request the International Court of Justice to issue a new Advisory Opinion on the requirements for action that follow the NPT Article VI obligation of "good faith" negotiation of nuclear disarmament.
9. Join and support the new International Renewable Energy Agency and make energy investment choices that phase out nuclear power and fossil fuels in favor of environmentally sustainable energy sources.

### Small Arms and Other Conventional Disarmament

10. Regulate and restrict the military and law enforcement use and trade in arms, especially small arms.
11. Prevent the proliferation of small arms in the civilian population through strict government licensing, registration and regulation of the sale, possession and use of such arms.
12. Support a strong and effective Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to regulate the global international trade in conventional arms. This Treaty must apply to all types of conventional arms and all types of international transfers. An effective Treaty must also prohibit international arms transfers where there is a significant risk that the transfer would violate international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
13. Implement the UN Firearms Protocol and the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and strengthen the UN Register of Conventional Arms.
14. Harmonize laws on domestic violence with laws for the prevention of violence committed with small arms.
15. Achieve universal adherence to and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
16. Establish a ban on the use of explosive force in populated areas.
17. Undertake disarmament of major conventional arms (tanks, artillery, aircraft, etc.) in accordance with the longstanding UN objective of general and complete disarmament.

### General

18. Redirect arms expenditure towards more productive and socially responsible alternatives that could help diminish the world's rich-poor divide and increase security.
19. Convene a fourth Special Session on Disarmament.
20. Declare the International Decade for Disarmament, 2010-2020.
21. Commence negotiations on a treaty to prevent the deployment or use of any weapon in space.



22. Establish a World Space Launch Organization that makes launch capabilities available to all states.
23. Commence negotiations on a global treaty on missiles and anti-missile systems.
24. Establish a verification regime for the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and achieve universal adherence to and implementation of the BWC and the Chemical Weapons Convention.
25. Establish a World Agency for Technology Assessment relating to disarmament and development.
26. In response to the global economic crisis, give special consideration to increasing employment and to vulnerable groups such as youth, women, children, and indigenous people.
27. Promote the development of a high-level goal to prevent and reduce armed violence by 2015 that will (offer the opportunity to) integrate security-related themes into the possible follow-up of the MDGs.
28. Fully implement Security Council resolution 1325, and, in particular, ensure representation of women at all levels of decision-making on conflict prevention, management, and resolution.
29. Fully implement Security Council resolution 1820 to prevent sexual violence in armed conflict.

#### **TO THE UN SYSTEM, VIA THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL:**

1. Transform the UN Register on Conventional Arms into a true global observatory linking civil society organizations and UN agencies, to monitor and report all trade and the use of weapons.
2. Encourage greater participation of civil society from developing and least developed countries in UN peace and disarmament forums, so that their local and regional perspectives are included in the discussions.
3. Involve new partners from strategic global networks as key elements to promote peace education, violence prevention, conflict resolution and development.

#### **TO NGOs AND CIVIL SOCIETY:**

1. Join and develop international NGO networks to promote peace, security, disarmament, and development, and support cross-sectoral forums that build on this conference.
2. Strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations in the Global South through partnerships, information exchange and fundraising.
3. Focus research on the development impacts of armed insecurity, and develop best practices in disarmament.
4. Promote education for peace, conflict resolution, human rights (civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental) and gender equality as essential to a just peace and improved human security.

### **FINALLY:**

The purpose of this declaration is simple: its aim is to save lives and reduce injuries, and in the case of nuclear weapons, to prevent the destruction of civilization. The benefits of peace and security far outweigh whatever short-term economic benefits the trade in arms may promise.

We request all peoples, organizations and governments to recognize and promote the efforts of many thousands of NGOs and civil society organizations around the world that promote peace and disarmament at the community level and are the roots of our international movements.

We thank the people and government of Mexico for their warm and friendly welcome at this, our first such meeting in Latin America.

## ANNEX I: ICONIC MOMENTS AT CONFERENCE

### Iconic Moment I: UN Secretary-General Helps Youth Complete Disarmament Sculpture

The Museo de Arte Popular was the venue for cultures and generations to come together in support of global nuclear disarmament.

Student volunteers from Mexico welcomed Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the Museum's patio to help finalize their life-size reproduction of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference's visual image. The Secretary General was greeted by Kelly Roberts and Constanza Gómez-Mont, Co-Chairs of the Youth Sub-Committees in Mexico City and New York City, who introduced him to the volunteers. These young artisans captured the spotlight as they worked side by side with the Secretary-General while international student journalists documented this important moment for posterity.

The sculpture, which depicted a cracked grenade with a tree growing from its core, was constructed out of chicken wire, paper and painted in the visual image's colors. Captivated by the youth's enthusiasm, the Secretary-General eagerly picked up a paint brush and added a personal



In the company of enthusiastic Mexican volunteers, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is presented with a replica of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference visual image.



design on a leaf that hung from the branches of the tree to help finalize the sculpture. He took an interest in socializing with the youth, which made a lasting impression on the volunteers.

A student journalist present observed: “The Secretary-General’s presence among us and his upbeat comments about our role in the future gave me a sense of my generation’s huge responsibility as well as motivation for us to fulfill the dream of disarmament”.

This outreach event recognized the young Conference participants’ initiative, creative energy, motivation and support for disarmament. It was also an opportunity to empower the youth and instil in them the desire to intensify their participation in the global disarmament movement, symbolically led by the Secretary-General.

At the conclusion of the event, the Secretary-General posed for a group photo with the youth and the smaller version of the sculpture that was created for him. This iconic sculpture will reside in the Museo de Arte Popular in recognition of the long-standing cross-cultural connection and commitment to disarming for peace and development.

“Youth is not afraid of change and working to make a difference in the world. It’s going to take different generations to make change and youth need to be educated about the dangers of nuclear weapons and know what steps are needed to work towards peace and development. By involving youth in disarmament; you provide them with an understanding of the real world implications and advocacy needed related to these issues”, observed Ms. Roberts.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon helps place the finishing touches on the youth's recreation of the 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference Visual Image.





**Generations  
for  
disarmament:  
Judy Lerner  
and Guillermo  
Parra  
Malvaez.**

## **Iconic Moment 2: UN Secretary-General Launches Latin American WMD Campaign via Twitter**

With distinguished Mexican artist Diego Rivera's iconic mural as the backdrop, the Secretary-General spoke informally to representatives from non-governmental organizations and young people from Latin America and the Caribbean about his We Must Disarm (WMD) campaign. The multi-platform campaign calls on governments and citizens to focus on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and seeks to raise awareness about the dangers and costs of nuclear weapons. The campaign came during the 100-day countdown to the International Day of Peace on 21 September.

Symbolically launching his Latin American campaign at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference in Mexico City, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon typed a "tweet", (the act of sending a messaging via the on-line Twitter social network), on his WMD Campaign website: "Because the world is overarmed & peace underfunded. U can set the priorities straight-join WMD campaign". His tweet was followed by those of Kiyoko Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima, and Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament. Mr. Akiba's tweet recalled nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki while Mr. Akasaka's message aimed to increase involvement in the campaign. Mr. Duarte's message emphasized a very important point, stating that we must disarm, "because our priorities R wrong. The world is over armed & peace underfunded".

Following the Twitter messages, the Secretary-General observed that it is not only governments' responsibility to free the world of nuclear weapons but also that of NGOs, young



generations, educators and politicians. Secretary-General Ban encouraged the audience to let their voices be heard on the issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by joining the campaign through its online platforms — Facebook, MySpace and Twitter — and by submitting their own “reasons to disarm” via the United Nations International Day of Peace 2009 website.

One of the students commented: “Being so close to such an important leader in the world today was exceptionally moving. He inspired me to become more of a leader on my campus to make my peers aware and more active about peace and anti-nuclear war issues”.

After the Secretary-General answered a few questions from student journalists at the conclusion of the event, he was introduced to the youngest and oldest participants of the Conference who joined him onstage. Judy Lerner, an octogenarian and a very active member of the DPI/NGO community, and Guillermo Parra Malvaez, in his teens, entered their “reasons to disarm” on the International Day of Peace website. Both participants emphasized the need for a multigenerational commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation.

Ms. Lerner poignantly summarized the need for an end to nuclear weapons for all generations:

“I want to put an end to weapons of mass destruction so that my grandchildren and my great grandchildren will grow up in a world of peace and justice”.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launches the Latin American “We Must Disarm” Campaign through Twitter at the Museo Mural Diego Rivera.





## ANNEX II

### Exhibits and Events at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference

NGOs at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference in Mexico City were offered the opportunity to present artwork illustrating their advocacy work at the Sociedad Mexicana Geográfica y Estadística.

Exhibits were organized by:

- Soka Gakkai—"Nuclear Disarmament: From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace"
- Mayors for Peace—"Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atom Bomb, a depiction of the aftermath of the attack"
- The Cluster Munitions Coalition—"Cluster Munitions: Civilian Harm from Laos to Lebanon"
- The UN Office of the Special Representative on Children in Armed Conflict — a poster exhibit titled "Children of War — Broken Childhood"
- Ribbons International/Women's Caucus for Art/KIK Kulturel Information/ Koordination—"Image and World: Global Statements for Peace and Disarmament", a series of ribbons and postcards.
- Tzu Chi Foundation—A Bodhi Tree and Peace Poems.

The exhibits officially opened on Tuesday, 8 September, by Charles Hitchcock, Chair of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference, cutting the ribbon, welcoming guests and ringing the Peace



From right are: Kiyo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information; Ambassador Claude Heller, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN, Sergio Duarte, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs; and Jadranka Mihalic, Director of UNIC Mexico.

UN officials cutting the ribbon, opening the photo exhibit "Children of War: Broken Childhood" in Mexico City, which was sponsored by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

One man views the artwork on display at the "Children of War: Broken Childhood" exhibit.



Bell at the Tzu Chi Foundation wishing tree. Several prominent Mexican officials and other dignitaries were in attendance.

The Exhibits and Events Sub-Committee also organized three special events for Conference participants: a free concert by Japanese rock star and peace activist Shinji Harada, with some 200 participants, including youth and Mexico City residents in attendance.

A panel titled "Children of War — Broken Childhood", which included a film and short discussion on children in armed conflict, was presented. Carolina Owens of the Office of the Special Representative on Children in Armed Conflict spoke of its work to institutionalize efforts on Children in Armed Conflict and to "name and shame" Member States who fail to live up to their legal commitments. Alison Sutton, Chief of the Child Protection unit for UNICEF Mexico, emphasized the shocking homicide rate, especially among young males, due to the wide use of small arms. UNIC Mexico had sponsored a relevant photo exhibit.

A peace walk was held in Alameda Park, across from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the site of the Conference. At the Benito Juarez Memorial, Mr. Hitchcock began the Peace Walk with remarks highlighting the urgency of creating a culture of peace now and a recitation of an appropriate poem. Participants walked through the park, toward a spot where a beautifully sculptured Peace Pole, engraved with the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four languages, had been installed the previous day.

The reading of several poems of peace preceded the cutting of the ribbon around the Peace Pole. Participants, including representatives from the Mexico City government, were then invited to tie brightly colored ribbons, each inscribed with their personal wishes for peace, onto the Pole. The Peace Pole, one of many around the world, is a visible Conference keepsake in Mexico City's Alameda Park that will promote peace wishes to local residents and passersby.

## ANNEX III

### Youth Activities: Students from Around the World Play Active Role in 62nd DPI/NGO Conference

#### NGO Networking & Career Fair Youth Luncheon

In an effort to involve, empower and educate college students and young professionals about the grassroots efforts of NGOs, an NGO Networking & Career Fair for Youth Luncheon took place on 10 September in Alameda Park in Mexico City.

More than 130 participants attended this networking event to meet NGO representatives from Mexico and around the world, and learn about initiatives, internships and public service campaigns.

During this event, the Art Center College of Design, an NGO associated with DPI, and Centro de diseño, cine y televisión in Mexico City, launched two sister outreach campaigns as a powerful call to action, mobilizing youth against gun violence. Another NGO, What Moves You?, a media outlet, interviewed attendees about their views on U.S. and Mexico relations. This ongoing project will eventually be made into a traveling exhibit. Exhibitors and attendees were pleased with the event and expressed their hope that it would become a regular activity in future conferences.



Youth gathers for the NGO Networking and Career Fair Youth Luncheon.



## **Sculpture Iconic Moment with the Secretary General**

The New York and Mexico Youth Sub-Committees hosted an event with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the Mexican youth volunteers on 9 September that resulted in a life-size replica of the Conference's visual image at the Museo de Arte Popular. (For more on this event, see Report on Iconic Moments on pg. 43.)

## **International Student Journalism Programme**

As part of the International Student Journalism programme, students from around the world were invited to Mexico City to report on the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference.

The student journalists received media credentials to cover the plenary and Roundtable sessions during the Conference. The result of their work can serve as a model for future conferences. Their daily newsletter about the Conference was posted on DPI's website in English and Spanish. (See DPI/NGO Conference website at [www.ngodpiconference.org](http://www.ngodpiconference.org).)

The student journalists enjoyed a pre-Conference orientation tour of locations of the workshops and lectures around Mexico City. They used various social networking venues, such as blogs and YouTube, to publicize their work.



**Mexican Volunteers and International Student Journalists gather at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**

## **Disarm the World with Knowledge: Students Learn about Disarmament at UN Headquarters in New York and Mexico City**

**NEW YORK** — Eighty-five young professionals, students and faculty from 14 colleges and universities gathered at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 9 June 2009 to explore disarmament issues with UN experts and, via live webcast, their colleagues from around the world.

The event was in preparation for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference on disarmament. It was organized the Conference Planning Committee's Youth Sub-Committee, and students and young professionals served as Co-Chairs in planning and implementing the event. Co-sponsors included the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, United Nations University, and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

Participants heard United Nations representatives and a graduate student describe how the attendees, equipped with the latest information, can develop disarmament coalitions on their campuses. Evaluations revealed that the event sparked students' requests for additional forums on topics such as child soldiers, climate change and poverty. These requests have been forwarded to the Department of Public Information for follow-up.

Unexpected outcomes of the event included another video conference on 23 June that continued the dialogue with Latin American participants. Students went back to their campuses to organize groups on international relations and against nuclear war. Faculties made stipends available to students to attend the conference in Mexico City. In addition, a liaison was established with United Nations University, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, and the Department of Public Information.

**MEXICO CITY** — A similar seminar titled "Disarming the World through Knowledge" was held on 22 June 2009 at UNIC office in Mexico City. The Youth Sub-Committee, together with UNIC Mexico City, organized this in preparation for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference.

More than 100 students from various universities from Mexico City came to the event which included the participation through webcast of students from different states of Mexico and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the course of the seminar, participants had the opportunity to engage in conversations with colleagues at UN headquarters in New York and the International Organization of Work in Lima via Internet and video connections.

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*\* DPI/NGO Relations would like to express its gratitude to the United Nations University for organizing the New York City event and arranging the live webcast that helped students at UN Headquarters communicate with their colleagues around the world.*

## ANNEX IV

### Media Sub-Committee Report

#### Media Strategy

In collaboration with the New York and Mexico City Media Sub-Committees, DPI/NGO Relations with cooperation from UNIC Mexico developed and implemented a Media Strategy that would help attract global attention to the issue of disarmament from an NGO perspective. The strategy also aimed at promoting the Conference both in the host country and around the world and was seen as a means of encouraging global NGO participation. The communications plan focused on the critical link among the main themes of the Conference disarmament, development, international peace and security, and created appropriate messages which were designed to raise awareness of both the issue of disarmament and more specifically the May 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, by exposing the public to the issues at stake. The hope was to create a platform for the NGO community, particularly those in the Latin American and Caribbean region, to have their views and concerns on disarmament heard and disseminated at an international forum. The strategy also aimed at raising consciousness among the local publics in the Latin American /Caribbean region on the links between disarmament, development and peace with the hope that better education on the issues would allow them to take action in support of this issue. Important target groups included youth, indigenous populations, the disabled and women's groups, giving them the opportunity to examine the role they each could and should play in disarmament issues.

#### Key messages:

Key messages were developed to help NGOs promote the Conference utilizing their local and regional news media. In Mexico, for example, the emphasis was on building on the importance communities in that country and the rest of Latin America placed on the links between disarmament and development. Key messages which resonated with people in this region included: "The benefits of peace and development to humankind will not accrue without disarmament." Other slogans of the Conference stressed the need to look at the money being spent on disarmament as opposed to development: "The world is 'over-armed and peace under-funded.' Nuclear disarmament could liberate significant resources for improving the quality of life of the 'bottom billion' around the world. Therefore for Peace and Development there is an urgent need to disarm now". The region was also very concerned about the issue of the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons as reflected in one of the messages urging governments and civil society to work together to reduce the availability of arms. For the international audience the messages were constructed around building trust and confidence through eliminating weapons of mass destruction. Emphasis was also placed on different aspects of disarmament such as regulating the use of conventional arms, the need for an Arms Trade Treaty to help avoid the scourge of civil wars and genocide and combating the phenomenon of child soldiers. The appeal to all target groups was that Mexico City offered an important opportunity on the road to the all-important Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May 2010; and that everyone should take action now to support disarmament.



## **Target Audiences:**

Various target audiences were identified including disarmament activists, students, teachers and researchers by both the Mexican Media Focal Group and the New York Media Sub-Committee and a multi-media approach was designed to appeal to these various groups. In addition to traditional media including NGO press, in Mexico and the Latin American and Caribbean region as well as the rest of the world emphasis was placed on using new media including You Tube and Twitter to publicise the Conference. The international press at UN Headquarters was strategically targeted with a background briefing by the Co-Chairs of the Conference, experts from the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the principles in Mexican Mission to the United Nations. The buy-in of key print, electronic and radio journalists in Mexico was targeted in similar fashion to build interest in the Conference within the host country. The eye-catching visual identity was displayed in posters—some 5000 were distributed in English and Spanish and a new innovation to this year's Conference was introduced in the form of a slightly- larger- than postcard size directory entitled "Conference at a Glance", giving information on the Conference schedule on one side and a map of Mexico City identifying Conference venues on the other. This proved very useful for many who attended the conference since the locations were rather spread out. The Mexico sub-committee also organized workshops in key universities and institutes of Higher Education to discuss the conference themes

## **Activities:**

The first major activity was a press release by DPI/NGO Relations announcing the selection of keynote speakers and addressing the fears about H1N1 which were rife in the early planning stages. Other releases followed with news about the association of new NGOs from Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean. Press releases were issued at important milestones in the Conference planning process as well as during the three-day Conference.

The three-day event was very comprehensively covered by two press officers, one from the Public Information Office in New York, who produced 6 press releases in English and the other from the UNIC Argentina, who worked produced 6 press releases in Spanish targeted to the regional audience. UN Radio also covered in both Spanish and English. The Spanish Radio section produced some 7 features in Spanish while some 15 news items and features were prepared by different language units within the UN Radio Service. Interviews were also done prior to the Conference with the Caribbean Unit of UN Radio, promoting the meeting in the Caribbean. Interviews were also conducted in Spanish and Portuguese for Latin American and Brazilian audiences with key partners such as the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Sergio Duarte.

In addition to the initial background Briefing for journalists at Headquarters, DPI/NGO Relations organized two major press conferences: one prior to the Conference at UN Headquarters featuring the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, Kiyo Akasaka, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Sergio Duarte, Ambassador Claude Heller, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, and Charles Hitchcock, Chair of the DPI/NGO Conference, and one with the UN Secretary-General and journalists both local and international, in Mexico. The Cluster also facilitated a telephone interview between Conference organizers at UN Headquarters and key journalists in Mexico City. UNIC Mexico assisted with setting up an interview with the UN Secretary-General and a leading Mexican newspaper Reforma which was front page news in Mexico the day after the Conference opened. UNIC Mexico also hosted an exhibit on small arms in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs across the street from the site of the Conference to draw attention of the Mexican public to the event.

For the first time the Conference put in place a media accreditation process and UNIC Mexico accredited some 121 journalists (both national and international) while the DPI/NGO Cluster facilitated the accreditation of student and NGO media attending the Conference. UNIC Mexico also coordinated a mechanism to ensure that media provided coverage for all of the activities of the UN Secretary-General at the Conference. Well over two hundred journalists (including video and photo journalists) covered Mr. Ban's activities (opening ceremony, press encounters, and side-events). Some 240 articles were published about the Conference on the 13 national dailies monitored by UNIC Mexico during the week of the Conference. A record number of some 50 student journalists from Mexico and the rest of the world also provided coverage of the Conference. Many of their video productions are now appearing on YouTube.

NGOs were also encouraged to cover the conference through their own newsletters and related NGO media outlets to reach their specific audiences. Guidelines were offered for advising local media about NGO involvement in the Conference and reference points for staying on message. Sample press releases that could be used by NGOs were prepared by the NGO Media Sub-Committees in New York and posted on the Conference website. They also ensured placement of stories on the Conference and more specifically the Conference Chair, in local magazines and newspapers.

The two popular side events which involved young people and the UN Secretary-General at the Conference, namely the Twitter event at the Diego Rivera Museum which launched the We Must Disarm campaign in Latin America and the presentation of the Disarmament sculpture built by the young people of Mexico with help from their international peer group at the Conference, attracted major media attention in Mexico and abroad.

For the first time a small group of local and international media also covered many of the roundtables and breakout sessions.

### **Conclusions:**

In general the conference was well covered both by Mexican and mainstream international media. In Mexico, newspaper coverage was extensive. Local radio and television also gave a very wide coverage of all of the UN Secretary-General's activities. Several photos of Mr. Ban by Mexican dailies appeared over the three days of the Conference, and most dailies highlighted the visit on its front pages.

The Conference strategy and its outreach efforts to a diverse target audience played a major role in the success of the media coverage of the Conference.

*(A detailed list of Conference coverage can be found in ANNEX VI)*

### **Interactive Media Report**

The official, comprehensive website of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference was launched in English and Spanish on Thursday, 3 July 2009 at <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference/>. The website was updated regularly with new information about the Conference for NGOs and other civil society actors worldwide to interest them in attending. It was designed with the same motif as the visual image of the Conference. Initially, the website opened with practical information about the Conference, which was followed by more important content on the conference itself including the programme and biographies of speakers participating in the Conference and the most important travel information. After the official opening of the Conference the

homepage was changed to display to visitors an iconic photograph of the attendees with the UN Secretary-General in the centre, all waving to the camera.

The website offered NGOs many resources on disarmament issues as well as timely speeches and articles, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's commentary "My Plan to Drop the Bomb", that appeared in numerous newspapers around the world. Online resources about the UN's "We Must Disarm" campaign were available on the Conference website for NGOs to use in promoting disarmament and development themes both before and after the Conference. NGOs regarded this information as useful, according to a post-Conference survey.

During the three days of the Conference the website featured up-to-date information on the detailed programme of the Conference and the various events that took place each day. It also gave information on keynote speakers including those participating in the Roundtable and Breakout discussions. A complete programme of the 24 Late Afternoon Workshops could be found in the section titled Workshops. Other sections featured general information on the Conference including registration information, visa requirements, updates on the H1N1 flu, travel and accommodations, frequently asked questions as well as important facts about Mexico City, its history and culture. The Youth Activities and Exhibits pages of the website provided thorough information of events of interest for all attendees.

There were also a number of links to disarmament information and resources on the websites of our partners, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and other organizations working in support of nuclear disarmament and conventional arms reduction. The Conference website also featured a Media Room, which promoted press releases both from DPI and the NGO community.

To honor the Conference being held in Mexico, the first country to successfully promote the establishment of a nuclear free zone, the website featured works by the late Alfonso Garcia Robles, the author of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts, the Conference website featured his "Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech" of 10 December 1982 and "Nobel Peace Prize Lecture" of 11 December 1982.

Prior to the opening of the Conference a video "curtain raiser", which would open the official event in Mexico, was added to the homepage. The dramatic presentation traced the brutality of war and the damage it left in its wake including violence against women to the possibilities for peace and development reflected in children's smiling faces going to school and farmers tilling land anew, in the absence of hostilities. The video very aptly captured the Conference theme: "For Peace and Development: Disarm Now".

Other material posted on the website as the Conference progressed included: Conference news that appeared in the global media, radio news and features, photographs which were archived in the photo gallery, the final NGO Declaration: "Disarming for Peace and Development", the welcome address by Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, President of the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly (video), and speeches delivered at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. In the Student Journalists' subsection of the Media Room, web visitors could read three of their Conference Bulletins, in which the young writers presented their views of this historic event.

For NGOs eager to expand their networking activity, the Conference Kit of the website offered UN System NGO Focal Points, a list of United Nations Information Centres and Services, and the members of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee.



## ANNEX V

### UNIC Activities

#### UNIC Buenos Aires

In order to draw attention to the 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference as well as strengthening partnership with civil society, UNIC Buenos Aires organized a workshop for NGOs in Argentina. The event was designed to encourage NGOs to attend the annual event by explaining its disarmament and development theme. Speakers also highlighted importance of UN-NGO collaboration. UNIC Director explained the association process for the attendees.

#### UNIC Moscow

UNIC Moscow hosted on 16 September a meeting for NGOs about the 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference. Representatives of regionally based NGOs and international officials discussed the overall results of the Conference, speeches and documents, including the address by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. According to the War Veterans Committee, a Moscow-based NGO, regional civil society concluded that it has to reevaluate some of its previous approaches to disarmament issues and adapt new trends that were highlighted in Mexico City.

#### UNIC Mexico

UNIC Mexico hosted several workshops on association of NGOs in preparation for the 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference. It played an important role in implementing the new policy on association in mobilizing NGOs from the region where the Conference was held. The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNIC Mexico were instrumental in the association of 43 NGOs in time for the Conference. UNIC Mexico also assisted the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in organizing an exhibit and panel on children in armed conflicts. UNIC Mexico facilitated with media accreditation. (For more on its media work, see Media Sub-Committee Report, page 52.)

#### UNIC Trinidad and Tobago

UNIC offices in these locations also hosted several workshops on association of NGOs in preparation for the 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference and facilitated the association of three NGOs.

*(For a detailed account of UNIC activity, please refer to ANNEX VI)*

## ANNEX VI

### Coverage of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference

#### United Nations Press Releases and Media Advisories

"62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference For Peace and Development: Disarm Now! ¡Desarme Ahora! Trabajemos por la Paz y el Desarrollo (Mexico City, Mexico, 9-11 September 2009) Information Sheet #1." 18 May 2009. New York.

[www.ngodpiexcom.org/2009ConferenceInfoSheet.doc](http://www.ngodpiexcom.org/2009ConferenceInfoSheet.doc)

"Disarmament Must be Verifiable, Transparent, with Basis in International Law, Speakers Stress as DPI/NGO Conference holds Round-Table Discussion." 10 September 2009. New York.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/Ingo678.doc.htm>

"DPI/NGO Conference Calls on Governments, International Organizations to Create Effective Arms Trade Treaty, Nuclear-Weapon-Free World." 14 September 2009. New York.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/Ingo682.doc.htm>

"Eliminating Global Arms Trade Crucial to Security, Sustainable Development, Speakers Stress as DPI/NGO Conference Round Tables Continue." 11 September 2009. New York.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/Ingo679.doc.htm>

"Keynote Speakers Confirmed for Sixty-Second Annual DPI/NGO Conference to be Held in Mexico City from 9-11 September." 21 July 2009. New York.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/Ingo676.doc.htm>

"Millennium Development Goals, Not Military Spending, Must be at Heart of National Security, Speakers tell DPI/NGO Conference Round Table." 11 September 2009. New York.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/Ingo680.doc.htm>

"People-Centred Development and National Reconciliation Key to Human Security, Speakers Say as DPI/NGO Conference Round Tables Continue." 14 September 2009. New York.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/Ingo681.doc.htm>

"Secretary-General, Receiving Keys to Mexico City, Commends Its 'Green Plan', Efforts to Cope with Challenges of Rapid Urbanization." 9 September 2009. New York.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/sgsm12443.doc.htm>

"Secretary-General Stresses Plan to 'Stop the bomb' as Annual DPI/NGO Conference Opens on Theme 'For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!'" 10 September 2009. New York.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/Ingo677.doc.htm>

"Seize Current Moment to Sign, Ratify, Secretary-General Says in Strong Appeal for Entry into Force of Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty." 15 June 2009. New York.

<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference/>

"Unprecedented Number of Mexican Non-Governmental Organizations Associated with Public Information Department Ahead of Conference in Mexico." 6 July 2009. New York.  
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/Ingo675.doc.htm>

### Press Conference

"Press Conference on Mexico City DPI/NGO Conference." 4 September 2009. New York.  
[http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2009/090904\\_DPINGO.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2009/090904_DPINGO.doc.htm)

### UNICs-UNIS-UNRIC

UNIC Cairo, "62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference Mexico-City, Mexico 9-11 September 2009."  
[http://www.unic-eg.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=54&Itemid=70](http://www.unic-eg.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=54&Itemid=70)

UNIC Mexico, "UNIC Mexico organizes regional NGO Workshops."  
<http://www.un.int/wcm/content/site/portall/cache/offonce/home/pid/9061;jsessionid=1230BCA1A5149F65E6DD644535ECFAE7>

UNIC Moscow, Events Calendar.  
<http://www.unrussia.ru/en/events.aspx>

UNIP Panama, "62a Conferencia Anual DPI/ONG. Ciudad de México 9-11 de septiembre 2009."  
24 July 2009.  
[http://www.cinup.org/susitiol/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=482](http://www.cinup.org/susitiol/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=482)

UNIC Port of Spain, United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area. "For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!" <http://www.unicpos.org.tt/index.php>

UNRIC, United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe, "UNRIC Library Newsletter– July 2009." July 2009. Brussels. [http://www.unric.org/html/english/library/newsletter/UNRIC\\_LIB\\_NEWS\\_JULY2009.pdf](http://www.unric.org/html/english/library/newsletter/UNRIC_LIB_NEWS_JULY2009.pdf)

### UN Media Outlets

#### UN News Service

"62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference: For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!" 2009.  
<http://www.sealthedeal2009.org/events/details/5-62nd-annual-dpingo-conference-for-peace-and-development-disarm-now>

"62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference: For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!"  
15 September 2009. New York. <http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article1595>

"Ban Arrives in Mexico for Talks with President and Disarmament Conference."  
8 September 2009. New York. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31981&Cr=mexico&Cr1=&Kw1=Disarmament&Kw2=Mexico&Kw3=>

"Ban to open UN Conference with Civil Society Groups Next Week in Mexico."  
3 September 2009. New York.  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31938&Cr=disarmament&Cr1=&Kw1=Disarmament&Kw2=Mexico&Kw3=>



"Disarm the World with Knowledge." 2009. New York.

<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference/>

"Disarming the World through Knowledge." Seminar. 22 June 2009. New York.

<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ngoconference/home/conference/pid/2006>

"World is Over-Armed and Peace is Under-Funded, Ban tells Civil Society Forum." 9 September 2009. New York. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31989&Cr=Mexico&Cr1=&Kw1=Disarmament&Kw2=Mexico&Kw3=>

"UN Event Seeks Civil Society's Participation in Achieving Disarmament Goals." 4 September 2009. New York. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31958&Cr=disarm&Cr1=&Kw1=DPI%2FNGO&Kw2=Conference&Kw3=>

"United Nations System Calendar of Media Events."

<http://www.un.org/events/calendar/Edetail.asp?EventID=1513&BeginDate=9/9/2009>

"Youth events lead up to September DPI/NGO Conference." 20 July 2009. New York.

<http://www.un.int/wcm/content/site/portal/cache/offonce/home/pid/10410;jsessionid=3C7F992EDE8BA4789400D972724E9E36>

"62. DPI/NGO Konferenz: Für Frieden und Entwicklung: Jetzt abrüsten." UNIFEM Germany.

<http://www.unifem.de/dokumente/download/62.%20DPI%20NGO%20Konferenz.pdf>

## UN Radio

### Ban offers UN aid to victims during visit to Mexico flood zone

9 September 2009

While visiting Mexico City for the DPI/NGO Conference, where he spoke out against rising military spending which has reached 1 trillion dollars a year, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited a flood-affected area in the northern suburbs of Mexico City to show his support for this town. He reassured homeowners that efforts would be made to rebuild homes and endorsed Mexican President Calderon's ability to improve the town. The Secretary-General also pledged the support of the UN to continue researching disaster risk reductions to address climate change and sustainable development. UN Radio's Jocelyne Sambira documented this report. <http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/detail/81158.html>

### Disarmament the Subject of Annual NGO Conference

8 September 2009

Sergio Duarte, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, highlights the critical timing of the DPI/NGO Conference on Disarmament and its coordination with the UN initiative. He credits the power of civil society and NGO representatives as key contributors to this agenda. UN Radio's Rosa Rivera captures this interview.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/detail/81099.html>

### Jody Williams: An NGO voice for disarmament

10 September 2009

In an interview with UN's Rosa Rivera, Nobel Laureate and Keynote Speaker, Jody Williams, impresses the need for civil society to coordinate with governments and act immediately to gain momentum in the movement for to end nuclear proliferation.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/detail/81239.html>

## **Interview Maria-Luisa Chávez (UN), and Miguel Díaz Reynoso (SRE)**

*Coproductión IMR-Radio UNAM*

*8 September 2009*

Rosalva Ruíz of Radio Universidad interviewed María Luisa Chávez, Chief of the DPI/NGO Sector and Miguel Díaz Reynoso, of the Dirección General para la Vinculación con las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Mexico City about the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference. Ms. Chavez explained why the Conference was located in Mexico City and highlighted the impressive increase in Latin American NGO participation. Mr. Reynoso related Mexico's history of support for disarmament and the significance of hosting the Conference in Mexico City. <http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ngoconference/cache/offoncel/home/pid/3903;jsessionid=993FB327B87049C910284A3C74BE83DA>

## **NGO Disarmament Conference wraps up in Mexico.**

*11 September 2009*

Donn Bobb of UN Radio interviews Mr. Charles Hitchcock, President of Peace Action and Chair of the Conference, about his hopes for the continued work on disarmament after the conclusion of the Conference. Mr. Hitchcock describes his vision for NGOs role, in relaying the experience and education gained at the Conference to their home communities.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/detail/81293.html#moreaudio>

## **NGOs Ready to Lobby on Disarmament after Mexico City Gathering,**

*11 September 2009.*

Mr. Charles Hitchcock, speaks as an NGO representative and shares his reflections on the success of the Conference with UN Radio's Rosa Rivera.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/detail/81301.html>

## **Senior UN Officials Commend NGOs Disarmament Work**

*11 September 2009.*

UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Sergio Duarte, comments on the impressive energy and dedication of NGO representatives at the Conference, and the significance of their participation and role in supporting UN disarmament goals. Kiyoko Akasaka, the head of the UN Department of Public Information, emphatically declares the importance of the NGO presence in "advancing the disarmament agenda" to UN Radio's Donn Bobb.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/detail/81296.html>

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"Asociación de un número sin precedentes de organizaciones no gubernamentales Mexicanas con el departamento de información público poco antes de la conferencia en México."

6/07/2009. <http://www.un.org/wcm/webdav/site/ngoconference/shared/documents/2815%29%20Comunicado%20de%20Prensa%20-%20Asociaci%C3%B3n%20de%20ONG%20Mexicanas.pdf>

"'El desarme afecta la vida y la seguridad de millones y millones de personas en el mundo; la paz, la seguridad y el desarrollo social son indivisibles y para lograrlos el mundo debe desarmarse', dijo el Secretario General de la ONU en México." 9/09/2009.

<http://www.un.org/wcm/webdav/site/ngoconference/shared/documents/pressconference.pdf>

"Más de 400 representantes de organizaciones civiles participaron hoy de un debate abierto sobre la necesidad de iniciar negociaciones inmediatas en la ONU para aprobar un tratado de comercio de armas legalmente vinculante." 10/09/2009.

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"Organizaciones civiles de todo el mundo llevan a cabo de 24 talleres de trabajo en ciudad de México sobre el impacto de la violencia armada en el desarrollo y la paz." 10/09/2009.

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"El Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas urgió a los líderes del mundo en México a negociar un acuerdo para librar al mundo de los arsenales nucleares y convencionales. Ban Ki-moon insto a lo sociedad civil a seguir trabajando para detener la industria de armas mundial que involucra 100 mil millones de dólares." 9/9/2009.

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Rivera, Rosa. "El desarme, una preocupación de todos." 10/09/2009. (Spanish) (2'03")

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Rivera, Rosa. "La influencia de las ONG en el desarme." 9/09/2009. (Spanish) (3'24")

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# ANNEX VII

## 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference Organizers

### Conference Board

**Eric Falt,**  
Director, Outreach Division, DPI

**Maria-Luisa Chávez,**  
Chief NGO Relations, DPI

**Chuck Hitchcock,**  
Chair, 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference

**Jessica Rojas,**  
Coordinator, NGO Focal Group Mexico

**Jeffery Huffines,**  
Chair, NGO/DPI Executive Committee

**Julián Juaréz,**  
Director General Adjunto para el Sistema de la ONU,  
Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE)

**Alfredo Feria,**  
Director General Adjunto de la Oficina para la  
Vinculación con las organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil, SRE

**Jadranka Mihalic,**  
Director, UNIC Mexico City

**Michael Cassandra,**  
UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (until 30 June 2009)

**Ewen Buchanan,**  
UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (since 1 July 2009)



## 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference Planning Committee

### Committee Co-Chairs:

**Maria-Luisa Chávez**

Chief, NGO Relations, Department of Public Information

**Charles Hitchcock**

Chair, 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference

### NEW YORK Sub-Committee Co-Chairs

#### Troubleshooting:

**Lily Schwabe**

Temple of Understanding

**Joan Levy**

ECPAT-USA

#### Outreach:

**Bruce Knotts**

Unitarian Universalist Association

**Sister Joan Kirby**

Temple of Understanding

#### Committee of Experts:

**Mark Marge**

IANSA

#### Late Afternoon Workshops:

**Cathey Falvo**

International Society of  
Doctors for the Environment

**Joanne Robinson**

Peace Action

#### Intergeneration

**Juanita Carrillo**

IAGG

**Judy Lerner**

Peace Action International

#### Youth of New York:

**Mary Norton**

Felician College

**Kelly Roberts**

NAFSA: Association of  
International Educators

#### Media & Publicity:

**Anne Riccitelli**

Syrian Orthodox Church in America

**Fannie Munlin**

National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

#### Events:

**Elisabeth K. Shuman**

SOS- Kinderdorf International

**Jackie Shapiro**

Zonta International

#### Travel & Accommodations:

**Patrick Sciaratta**

Friendship Ambassadors Foundation

#### Fundraising:

**Sherrill Kazan**

World Council of Peoples for the United Nations

#### Office for Disarmament Affairs:

**Ewen Buchanan**

as of 01 July 2009

**Michael Cassandra**

until 30 June 2009

#### Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations:

**Perla Flores,**

Third Secretary

#### Ex Officio:

**Gail Bindley-Taylor Sainte, DPI/NGO**

**Mona Gillet, DPI/NGO**

**Isolda Oca, DPI/NGO**

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# ANNEX VIII

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS SURVEY REPORT

### 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference Mexico City

#### Executive Summary

The 2009 DPI/NGO Conference was attended by 899 NGO representatives from 42 countries. A majority of the representatives, or 74 per cent, were from developing countries this year, mainly due to the Conference's location in Mexico City.

Twenty per cent of the representatives responded to a print survey about their conference experience. In general they found the Conference to be useful: the average usefulness ratings for the roundtable sessions and workshops were 4.2 and 4.1, respectively, on a 5-point scale where 1 = not useful at all and 5 = very useful. These ratings were down slightly from the 2008 average ratings of 4.3 for the roundtable sessions and 4.3 for the workshops. When asked to select the most useful educational and professional aspects of the 2009 Conference, 66 per cent of representatives chose *UN information materials*, 62 per cent selected *networking with other NGOs* and 54 per cent selected *identifying solutions to common problems*. The 2009 conference received slightly higher satisfaction ratings than 2008 in terms of the conference's overall organization and the registration process. One-third of survey respondents reported that their NGOs had been active in promoting the Conference's disarmament and development theme prior to the conference.

#### Introduction

1. The 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference in Mexico City was the second annual conference held away from United Nations Headquarters in New York. It was attended by 1,265 participants, of which 899 were NGO representatives from 353 NGOs. Forty-two countries were represented. In addition to NGO representatives, participants included student journalists, student volunteers, Mexican Government staff, and regional United Nations staff. Attendance was lower than the 2008 Paris Conference which had 1,106 representatives. The Mexico City Conference, however, was affected by the worldwide financial crisis which resulted in significantly reduced budgets of many NGOs.
2. The Conference had a majority, or 74 per cent, of representatives from developing countries due to its location in Mexico City and the efforts of regional associations. There were 596 Mexican NGO representatives at the Conference; they comprised 66 per cent of total representatives. The United States had the next highest representation — 179 representatives, or 20 per cent of the total. Another 41 countries had between 1 and 13 NGO representatives at the conference; representing 2 per cent or less of the total representatives. Twenty-seven of those were developing countries, many from the Latin American region including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Colombia, Costa Rica, the

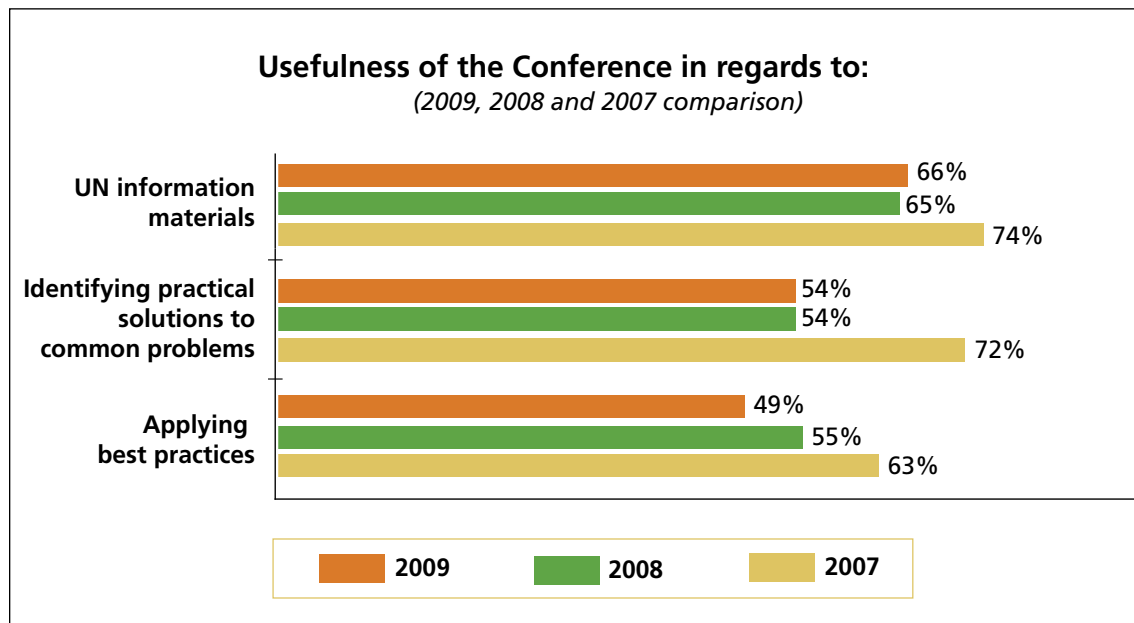
Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela. NGO representatives also came from developing countries in African and Asia, including Kenya, Nigeria, Liberia, China, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Thailand.

- Print surveys were distributed at the event, and a total of 176 representatives responded, for a response rate of 20 percent, the same response rate achieved at the 2008 Conference.

## 2009 Survey Findings

### Usefulness of the conference

- Survey respondents were asked to rate the usefulness of various educational and professional aspects of the conference. The *UN information materials* and *networking with other NGOs* aspects were rated the highest, at 66 per cent and 62 per cent respectively, followed by *identifying solutions to common problems* (54 per cent), *applying best practices* (49 per cent) and *learning how to cooperate with your local government* (41 per cent).
- As **Chart 1** shows, three educational and professional aspects were also queried in the 2008 and 2007 surveys. The 2009 ratings approximate those of 2008, with 2007 still bearing out the highest ratings in recent years.



### Usefulness — Roundtable Sessions

- The roundtable sessions were generally well-received. As **Table 1** shows, the two substantive sessions which focused on development themes had the highest average ratings of 4.2. The roundtable session about nuclear disarmament was next with an average rating of 4.1, followed by a session on conventional weapons with a 4.0 rating.

The opening and closing sessions were especially well-liked with 4.3 and 4.6 average ratings respectively. The breakout sessions received the lowest average usefulness rating of 3.8.

The overall usefulness rating across all roundtables was 4.2 compared to 4.3 in 2008.

<b>Table 1: 2009 Roundtable Session</b>	<b>Average usefulness rating</b>
Closing session	4.6
Opening session	4.3
Human Development is Global Security	4.2
New Challenges and Perspectives for Global Development and Security for the 21st Century	4.2
Zero Nuclear Weapons, Zero Weapons of Mass Destruction: Why? How? When?	4.1
Removing the Tools of Armed Violence	4.0
Break-out sessions (in general)	3.8

### Usefulness — Afternoon Workshops

7. There were 24 workshops at the 2009 Conference compared to 44 in 2008. The number of workshops was reduced in an effort to streamline their topics and to balance participant attendance among them. The majority of survey respondents, or 77 per cent rated the workshops as useful or very useful in 2009. In 2008, however, the percentage that found them useful was slightly higher at 80 per cent. In terms of the average usefulness rating, in 2009 it was 4.1 versus 4.3 in 2008.

### Conference theme — For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!

8. The theme of the 2009 Conference was about nuclear disarmament and conventional weapons regulation and how these issues relate to the work of NGOs, especially development work. In the lead-up to the conference, the NGOs had been asked to promote disarmament and development themes. Respondents were asked how active they had been in promoting one of the UN communications initiatives about nuclear disarmament — the “We Must Disarm” (WMD) campaign. The response was quite mixed: a plurality, or 37 per cent of respondents, reported that they had not been active in promoting the “We Must Disarm” campaign. Thirty-two per cent gave a neutral response on their level of activity. Another 32 per cent reported their NGOs as having been active or very active in promoting the campaign.
9. Online resources about the “We Must Disarm” campaign were available on the Conference website for NGOs to use in promoting disarmament and development themes before the Conference. When asked how useful these resources were, a majority of respondents, or 66 per cent, rated them as useful, 24 per cent gave them a neutral rating, and 10 per cent rated them as not useful. In the 2008 Conference survey, the online materials about that year’s theme — human rights — received higher ratings: 82 per cent of 2008 respondents found those materials useful.

### Information dissemination plans

10. NGOs are key disseminators of UN communications messages and themes. Survey respondents were asked “How will you and your NGO disseminate information on the



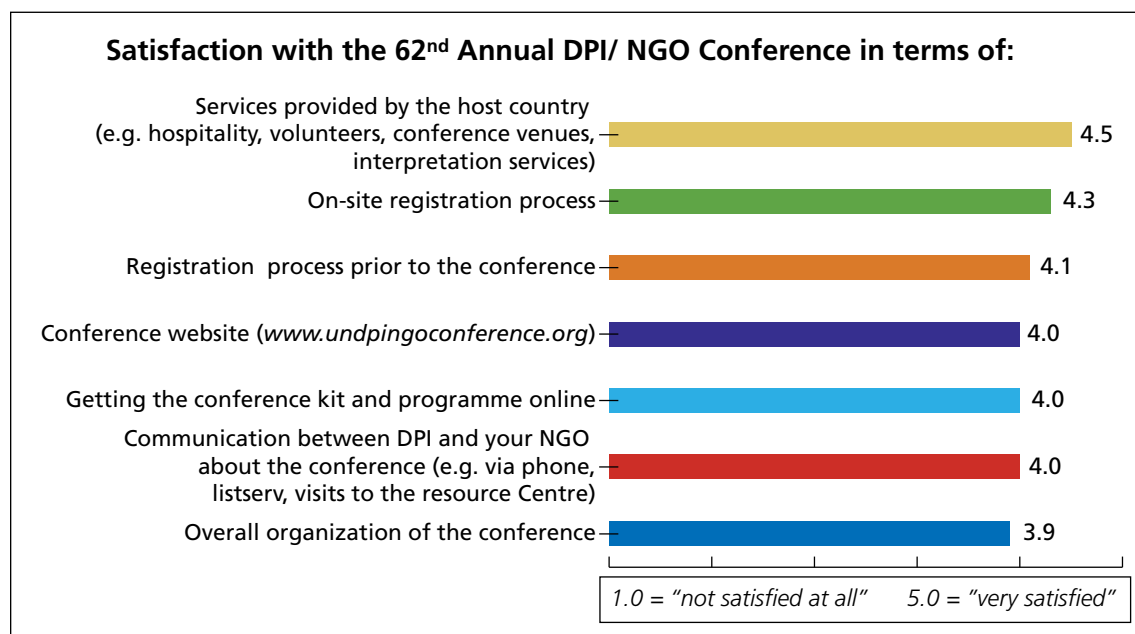
subjects of the conference?" They were asked to check all relevant responses. One hundred of the 176 respondents, or 57 per cent, said that they would post information on their websites. Fifty-one per cent said they would use a newsletter, 32 per cent would use meetings or conferences, another 32 per cent would use membership mailings, and 20 per cent would use regional meetings. Other dissemination channels included the sending of information to their NGO headquarters or a board of directors (17 per cent), briefings for local media (10 per cent), and listservs (9 per cent).

## NGO/DPI Executive Committee

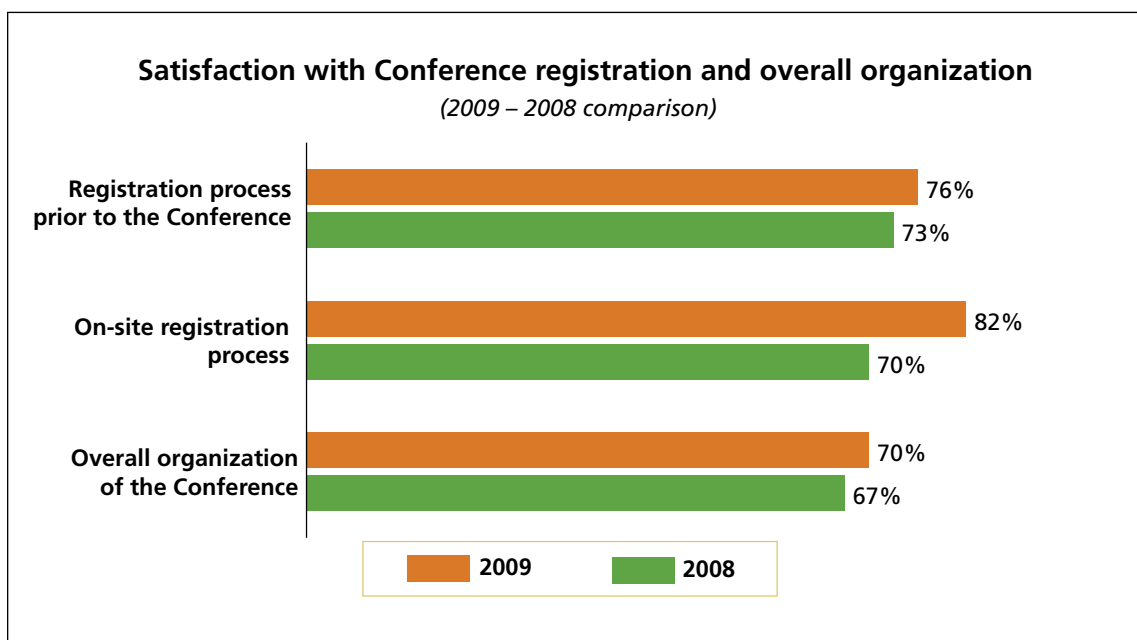
11. Respondents were asked if they were familiar with the work of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee and if so, if they would they like the Executive Committee to be more active in their regions. Fifty-five per cent of respondents answered that they would like the Executive Committee to be more active in their regions. Thirty per cent said that they were *not familiar* with the Executive Committee's work, and 14 per cent had no opinion. Less than 1 per cent of respondents said that they would not like the Executive Committee to be more active in their regions.

## Logistics and organization

12. Respondents were asked how they had heard about the Conference. The largest percentage marked the "other" response option and wrote in their source of information. Most of that 26 per cent had heard about the conference through their own NGO or through another NGO. Twenty-two per cent of respondents had heard about the Conference through the listserv maintained by the NGO Relations Cluster, 18 per cent heard about it through UN Information Centres, 15 per cent through the Mexican Government or Mexican NGOs, followed by 14 per cent through the NGO Resource Centre at New York Headquarters. The Conference website was also used (9 per cent) as well as the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (4 per cent).
13. **Chart 2** illustrates the satisfaction levels related to logistics at the Conference.



14. Services provided by the Government of Mexico, such as the provision of volunteers, venues, and interpretation services were rated the highest, with an average rating of 4.5. Eighty-seven per cent of respondents rated these services with a 4 or 5 on a 5-point satisfaction scale.
15. The on-site registration and pre-registration services received the next highest ratings with 4.3 and 4.1 respectively (see more details below on the registration ratings). The Conference website received the next highest satisfaction rating of 4.0; 74 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the website.
16. For the first time, participants were able to obtain the Conference kit and programme online, before the start of the Conference. The average satisfaction rating with this new arrangement was also 4.0; seventy-two per cent of respondents were satisfied with this arrangement, 17 per cent were neutral about it and 12 per cent were not satisfied.
17. Many NGOs contacted the DPI/NGO Relations Cluster before the Conference with questions, problems and requests for assistance. The average satisfaction rating for communication with the Cluster was 4.0; 70 per cent of respondents gave positive satisfaction ratings here.
18. As **Chart 3** illustrates, when comparing the 2009 logistical ratings to those of 2008, there was increased satisfaction related to three areas: registration prior to the conference — 76 per cent in 2009, 73 per cent in 2008, on-site registration — 82 per cent in 2009, 70 per cent in 2008 and overall organization of the conference — 70 per cent for 2009, 67 per cent in 2008.



19. Respondents showed very strong support for the idea of the Conference being held in a different country each year. Ninety-one per cent of them agreed with this idea, 4 per cent gave a neutral rating about it and 4 per cent disagreed.

## Comments from participants

20. The survey gave respondents a chance to express further thoughts or impressions beyond their answers to the survey's pre-set questions. Many of the comments related to Conference logistics. In this regard, compliments about the Mexican student volunteers were numerous. The volunteers were appreciated for their polite guidance and information, as well as their youthful presence. There were several comments about how youth should be involved in future conferences.
21. Some respondents complained of not receiving information before arriving about security regulations to be aware of upon arrival (no bags, cameras allowed) and others complained about a lack of consistency in the application of security measures. The attractive venues of the Conference were appreciated but some respondents complained of the small size of some rooms, and that sessions and exhibits were too spread out, making them hard to reach in time. Comments about poor time-keeping were mentioned, as well as requests in the future for print biographies of the panelists and participants' email lists.
22. Some salient points about the roundtable sessions comments that more men than women were called on in the question and answer sessions, and that there were no female panelists in the closing ceremony. There were many complaints about the quality and vetting of questions during the question and answer sessions. Some survey respondents suggested that questions be pre-determined in the future so as to save time and improve the interactive dialogue.
23. The Conference theme of disarmament and development was considered important and sensible by some respondents and less viable by others who did not see linkages to the missions and work of their NGOs. Some requested that future conference presentations focus more on the perspectives of women.
24. The Declaration on Disarming for Peace and Development that was sent from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the President of the UN Security Council gave rise to several complaints. Respondents said that their input had not been sought in creating the document, and that there wasn't time to properly review it before signing it.
25. There were many comments that contained thanks and praise about the United Nations' efforts in producing an inspiring and effective conference. On the other hand several people expressed concern that the conference did not produce concrete ideas or a document with follow-up actions for NGOs; perhaps not all participants were aware of the Declaration.



# ANNEX IX

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[www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference](http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference)

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