



Women's Federation for World Peace International

Federation for World Peace International

United Nations Office Newsletter

Spring 2003

2nd Annual Forum on the Eradication of Poverty

United Nations, New York - December 2, 2002



The Second Annual Forum on the Eradication of Poverty: A Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) "Building a Partnership between the UN and Civil Society" was held in Conference Room 4 at UN HQ, New York on December 2, 2002 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. A reception followed at the Delegates Dining Hall from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The forum was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations. Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) and WFWP USA cosponsored and organized the event.

There were 300 participants, including 60 participants from UN Missions and UN Systems. The forum was opened by the Moderator of the Opening Session, Ms. Motoko Sugiyama, Co-chair of the Forum Organizing Committee and Director of the UN Office of WFWPI. She explained that the second forum scheduled for 2001 was cancelled due to the September 11th terrorist attack. The sponsors and organizers were very happy that this 2nd forum could finally take place.



Welcoming remarks were given by the cosponsors, **H.E. Mr. Carlos Dos Santos, Permanent Representative of Mozambique** to the United Nations and Prof. Lan Young Moon Park, President of WFWPI. H.E. Mr. Carlos Dos Santos emphasized that one of the greatest challenges facing humanity is absolute poverty, which affects the majority of the people around the world. This challenge can only be overcome by concerted and coherent action by all actors and stakeholders. UN and civil society hold primary interest and responsibility. We have a unique opportunity to reverse the trend of increasing poverty. In this regard, he expressed pleasure in sharing

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the hosting of this forum as well as sharing the goals and spirit of WFWP. He commended the vital work done by WFWP throughout the world.

Prof. Lan Young Moon Park

also gave a heartfelt welcome to the participants. She expressed that poverty has two meanings; material poverty, or lack of the basic physical needs and spiritual poverty, the lack of True Love (affection, care, decency, etc.). She shared her experience as a refugee from North Korea 50 years ago. Two thirds of the 150 refugees who were trapped on a small island died of starvation. Meeting basic physical needs is a matter of life and death. She also stressed the importance of education of the spirit, learning to give to others no matter what. Student exchange programs between children of developed and developing countries will help students learn the realities and problems in different situations. She concluded by saying that she has hope and confidence we can eliminate poverty and sustain development. Her hope stems from working on and observing



Eradication of Poverty, continued on pg. 5



Statement of Purpose

The Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) supports a network of National WFWPI Chapters worldwide. WFWPI Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our societies and world.

Ultimately "solutions" come as *true* partnerships between men and women are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society's most elemental level—the family.

Peace then expands into our communities, nation and world.

Therefore, WFWPI works to provide women worldwide with: *the knowledge, tools and support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities, our nations and our world.*

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At the UN in New York...

Reports of DPI/NGO Briefings

Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD): A Focus on Implementation

By Ms. Motoko Sugiyama - October 17, 2000

The Briefing on "Follow-up to the WSSD: A Focus on Implementation" was held on Oct. 17, 2002 at 10:30 am-12:00 pm at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium moderated by Ms. Susan Markham, Chief, Promotion and Planning Services of DPI.

Speakers were: Mr. Lowell Flanders, Chief, Policy Integration and Programme Coordination Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, DESA, Mr. Xolisa Mabongo, Councilor, Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations, Mr. Michael Strauss, Executive Director, Earth Media.

The Briefing was focused on the Summary view of WSSD by each speaker, who represented the perspectives of the UN Organizations, UN Missions and NGOs. First, Ms. Markham, spokeswoman from DPI for WSSD made the comment, "WSSD had great impact on raising global public awareness, which was one of the successes of WSSD."

Mr. Flanders summarized that WSSD was focused on implementation of the ideas of Rio Agenda 21. The World Solidarity fund for Africa issue was also one of the

important topics. This summit had especially emphasized the importance of partnerships between government, businesses and civil society. Almost 280 partnerships with \$235 million in resources were submitted to the UN. He also commented that to hold a summit is not the end of the issue. Instead, the summit helps momentum build and keeps things going.

Mr. Strausse stressed his view from an NGO's perspective, that NGOs were challenging the UN and the government for their attention to the NGO's areas of interest. This challenge came in the form of five different, major venues filled with NGO booths. Most regrettably, the US blocked many agendas, including the Kyoto protocol. Mr. Strausse went on to say that the US will change its attitude as the climate created by the public voices of the international community continue to rise. He also stated that it is the role of NGOs to push the public in the US.

The briefing ended by the confirmation that follow-up would need to be focused and that the pledges of partnership would need to be monitored to assure that implementations occur.

Prejudice: Psychoanalytical Perspectives on Palestinian/Israeli Relations

January 23, 2003 - Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium UN HQ, New York

By Ms Merly Barete-Barlaan

Speakers: Mr. Paul Hoeffel, Chief of NGO Section /DPI, Ms. Afaf Mahfouz, Chair, Committee on the United Nations, International Psychoanalytical Association, Henri Parens, Professor of Psychiatry, Jefferson Medical College, George Awad, Training and Supervising Psychoanalyst, Toronto Institute for Psychoanalysis and University of Toronto and Robert Wallerstein, Past President, International Psychoanalytical Association.

The briefing started at 10:30 am with a moving video presentation entitled "Peace of Mind: Coexistence Through the Eyes of Palestinian and Israeli Teens," in which Palestinian and Israeli youths gathered and spent time together to get to know each other, learn about the perspectives of their religious ceremonies, pray together, discuss the problem of coexistence in their region and take action to solve the problem. These teen-agers are training themselves to

become leaders in setting a standard of friendship and coexistence to stop the hatred between Israelis and Palestinians.

Mr. Paul Hoeffel warmly welcomed everyone to the first DPI/NGO briefing of the year. He then introduced the speakers and opened the floor.

According to Ms. Mahfouz, partnership between UN and NGOs is not a relationship only of lip service. It takes extra hard work. When addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict, we need to understand how we can help governments find a way to achieve peace. We are here for many reasons: to focus on substantial accomplishment, to see the science of psychoanalysis influence a comprehensive approach to peace and rebuilding of society in the Middle East. We are here to see if we can make a difference. We can't address the problem without looking back at history. How and

Prejudice, continued on pg. 11

Launching of United Nations Literacy Decade: Education for All (2003-2012)

February 13, 2003 - UNHQ, New York

The UN Literacy Decade-Education for All (2003-2012) spearheaded by UNESCO in cooperation with DPI was launched at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on February 13, 2003.

The program was held in Conference Room 4 from 10:00 am to noon. Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO and H.E. Mr. Nitsigiyn Bagabandi, President of Mongolia (who sponsored the Resolution establishing the Decade) were the key speakers. The event was also attended by Mrs. Nane Annan, Permanent Representative of the UN, Heads of UN Agencies and Liaison Offices, UN Secretariat Staff, Goodwill Ambassadors, Literacy NGO's including Youth Groups and Literacy Volunteers. Representatives from various fields such as teachers and adult learners from around the world also addressed the audience with their moving testimonials of their adult learning experiences.

In Mr. Matsuura's remarks, he emphasized the Decade's two main aims: First, the Decade will seek to raise and maintain awareness of the literacy challenge. And, second, the Decade will serve as a stimulus to action by a broad range of partners and stakeholders. The International Plan of Action prepared by UNESCO identifies several key areas of action and associated strategies. The slogan that UNESCO has adopted for the Decade – "Literacy as Freedom" – is designed to encourage approaches to literacy acquisition and development which free people from ignorance, incapacity and exclusion and free them for action, choices, and participation.

There were two remarkable testimonies from a 60-year old woman from the Maguindanao tribe in the Philippines, and a mother from Mexico. Both told their stories of how difficult their lives were

when they didn't know how to read, couldn't go to the market alone, couldn't attend PTA meetings, couldn't help children's homework, and couldn't vote. After participating in adult literacy programs, they could read and do all the things that were impossible for them to do before they attended literacy classes. Now they feel empowered and confident. They send their message to the UN and the world that they are so grateful, how important literacy is and how important it is to continue implementing literacy programs.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the theme Exhibition entitled "Literacy in Action Across the Globe" was held at noon in the UN lobby and started with a brief message by Mrs. Nane Annan followed by the President of Mongolia and the Director-General of UNESCO.



Important Points about the Literacy Decade:

What is the United Nations Literacy Decade?

*The United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012) aims to extend the use of literacy to those who do not currently have access to it. Over 861 million adults are in that position, and over 113 million children are not in school and therefore not gaining access to literacy either. The Decade will focus on the needs of adults with the goal that people everywhere should be able to use literacy to communicate within their own community, in the wider society and beyond. Literacy efforts have so far failed to reach the poorest and most marginalised groups of people – the Decade will particularly address such populations, under the banner of Literacy for all: **voice for all, learning for all.***

Why has it been established?

One in five people over the age of 15 cannot communicate through literacy or take any part in the surrounding literate environment. The EFA Global Monitoring Report 2002 spelled out the scope of the challenge – over 861 million people without access to literacy. Two thirds of these people are women, with illiteracy thus adding to the deprivation and subordination to which women are already subject. In an interconnected world where literacy is a key to communication such exclusion is unacceptable.

How will it make a difference?

The International Plan of Action for the Literacy Decade proposes six lines of action to implement literacy for all:

1. **Policy change:** policies must provide a framework for local participation in literacy, including multilingual approaches and freedom of expression. National policy environments must link literacy promotion with strategies of poverty reduction and with programmes in agriculture, health, HIV/AIDS prevention, conflict resolution and other social concerns.
2. **Flexible programmes:** diverse and meaningful literacies require flexible modes of acquisition and delivery, using appropriate materials and languages, focusing on relevant purposes, and generating interesting, culturally relevant and gender-sensitive materials at the local level.
3. **Capacity-building:** as well as increasing and improving the training of literacy facilitators, capacity-building will focus on areas which need strengthening in particular countries.
4. **Research:** new policies for literacy will be most effective when they are based on the results of empirical research.
5. **Community participation:** strong community ownership of the purposes and processes of literacy will result in its effective use. This requires good communication between government and communities, inter-community networks, community learning centres and other ways of ensuring that literacies are relevant and useful to people in their daily lives and serve their aspirations.

6. **Monitoring and evaluation:** better literacy indicators are necessary to show what progress is made during the Decade, both in terms of literacy rates and numbers, and in terms of the impact of literacy. UNESCO will work with its institutes and its partners to find improved ways of measuring literacy, in local contexts and worldwide.

Who will be involved?

A key feature of the Decade will be the prominent role which learners take in the design of literacy strategies for their own situations. Community-based organisations, NGOs and civil society will provide channels for collective action. Governments will have the responsibility to work closely with them, negotiating resource provision: training input, financial support, institutional recognition and validation.

At the international level, the UN General Assembly asked UNESCO to take on the coordinating role, bringing partners together for joint action and policy debate.

At the UN in Geneva ...

International Women's Day Seminar in Geneva

Woman's Rights and the Economics of War

Palais des Nations Geneva, 5-7 March 2003

Organized by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Working Group on Peace

By Carolyn Handshin

For almost 20 years, women have come together at the United Nations in Geneva to mark March 8th, **International Women's Day**, to discuss disarmament related issues from a feminine perspective. Women's Federation for World Peace, International together with two other members of the Working Group on Peace (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-WILPF and Femmes Africa Solidarite -FASNGO) have cooperated as part of a Special Task Force for the last two years to facilitate the program, and draft the ensuing statement. Each year's seminar is timed to begin at the opening plenary of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) at which time that statement from the seminar is read.

This year's focus, 'Women's Rights and the Economics of War' dealt with the economic background of conflicts and the humanitarian impact of disarmament, especially as it affects and is affected by women. The impact of failed disarmament on human rights will be further dealt with later this month at the Commission on Human Rights.

The opening plenary began with a speech on Working for Disarmament: Women, Politics and Processes, by Dr. Patricia Lewis, Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. Other speakers included Dr. Jan Oberg, who is the president of the Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research and co-founder with his wife, of the Danish High School for Peace. Insisting that the problems that are causing the situation with Iraq to precipitate will not go away with war, he cited persistent efforts at disarmament, education and dialogue as being the mechanisms to ensure success.

Dr. Vanessa Farr, an independent consultant from South Africa who has worked in zones of combat for UNIFEM spoke on the topic of 'Small Arms and Women's Rights'. She noted the impact of war on women as they provide unpaid labor as health care workers and heads of households in addition to being bread winners-- during and after the conflict. She identified various aspects of profit based conflicts leading to trafficking in Women and young girls for purposes of

sexual slavery. Dr. Farr also discussed the psychological impact on women of weapons hiding leading to even more weapons. She also noted examples of women's critical influence on their husbands and sons to get them to trade in their weapons, which inevitably leads to de-escalation of violence.

Finally, closing the second day was Irene Martineau from Amnesty International of Germany, who reiterated the terrible plight of women (and men) in the face of the corruption and greed that has totally transformed the country of Chad after the discovery of oil reserves there. Having lived and worked there, and with deep affection for the people, she spoke of the courageous efforts of human right activists, journalists and ordinary citizens who felt compelled to fight back.

The third day began with an impassioned speech by Alice Ukoko from Women of Nigeria International who spoke of the tragedies of the oil richness of the Delta region of Nigeria. She described the complicity between government and the oil industry in her country to rape the land and commit unimaginable crimes against the people to hide their guilt. She spoke of the rebelliousness of the youth there and the recent swell of desperation that has led the women to try to take the matter into their own hands, sometimes with tragic consequences.

The next speaker was Soheila Mamei from France Liberte who addressed the issue of the violation of women's rights in Iraq, especially noting the situation of Kurd women. She detailed the reign of fear and terror of Saddam Hussein's absolute dictatorship and she presented a compelling case against his propaganda that seeks to reassure the global community that his continuation in power is risk-free. The last presenter was Suela Krifsa, of United Nations Development Programme: Crises Prevention and Recovery Sector who gave insight into their young but promising Weapons for Development Programme. The project was initiated when the government of Albania requested assistance of the UN to help rid their population of the stockpiles of hidden arms

after the war in Kosovo. The innovative effort to involve the local women and NGO's to accomplish this through incentives of exchange of arms for development packages is being further expanded in Somalia and other regions.

In the final session of the seminar, participants discussed conclusions and recommendations for Action on Conflict Prevention. Issues included the questions, "how can we really understand the cause of conflict enough to prevent the escalation to violence?" and "what mechanisms already exist and can be developed within the UN Constitution and other international instruments of the United Nations to support strategies of conflict prevention?" Proposals will be further developed and published.



Commission of Human Rights 59th Session Promotion and Protection of Human Rights; Human Rights Education

Written statement submitted by the Women's Federation for World Peace Intl.

Following the lead of the United Nations in an effort to re focus its structure from "a culture of reaction to one of prevention", leaders and policy makers at every level and all of civil society is called to do the same. In the words of Kofi Annan, our work is to "prevent wars by design, not by default". The efforts to mainstream conflict prevention and develop guidelines for the creation of a culture of peace have rarely been able to hold their momentum as the urgent calls to new outbreaks of hostilities elsewhere have diverted their attention. Only with hindsight can we begin to imagine how many of these emergencies might have been averted had we maintained allegiance to some of these visionary programs.

What if, since its inception, the whole UN system had held to a policy of never less than 50% of its structure being channeled in the direction of conflict prevention and education for peace programs. We have to look only as far as our own families to realize the common sense of it.

The Women's Federation for World Peace is absolutely committed to the premise that peace begins in the mind and that all minds are educable. We all know that it's

Statement, continued on pg. 10

Eradication of Poverty

WFWP activities throughout the world in the past 10 years, as well as from her knowledge that God is our common parent who gives us the original love to share with each other.

After the opening session, there was a video presentation on WFWP service projects worldwide.

Ambassador Dos Santos moderated the forum. The four topics were as follows:

Topic I

Diversity in Civil Society's Response

Panelist **Ms. Alexa Fish Ward, President of WFWP USA** and co-chair of the forum organizing committee spoke on WFWP worldwide activities. Her focus was on WFWP international service projects started in 1994. The overall goal for the projects is the eradication of poverty and improving lives of women and children. Most project volunteers were originally from Japan. The projects were developed as volunteers went to their mission countries and worked with leaders of women's NGOs and other national and local leaders to identify needs. Those projects are:



1. Self Help Assistance for Women (Vocational center and schools)
2. Schools for Children
3. Scholarships
4. Programs for AIDS Prevention
5. Medical Assistance
6. Micro-Credit
7. Nutrition and Hygiene Education

Ms. Ward observed that volunteers' sacrificial devotion made project development possible. Now other WFWP chapters in developed countries are supporting these efforts through fundraising in their respective chapters.



Panelist **Ms. Francesca B. Close, Founder and Chairwoman of ABWI** (Alliance of Business Women International) explained her work for sustainable economic

development. She helps strengthen small business sectors and creates a strong workforce throughout global communities. ABWI and Orbis Group (Ms. Close represents Orbis Group) help create businesses that empower many women who

were previously excluded from economic opportunity. She concluded by sharing that she had a life-awakening experience as she participated in the Bridge of Peace Sisterhood Ceremony sponsored by WFWP in 1995 in Washington, D.C. between Japanese and American women. Since then she holds great trust in WFWP for this organization's contribution to the realization of world peace.

Topic II

Perspectives of UN Organizations

Panelists for this topic were **Dr. Desmond Johns, Director of UNAIDS**, New York Liaison Office and **Ms. Vanessa Tobin, Chief of UNICEF, Water, Environment and Sanitation Section**.

Dr. Desmond Johns focused on the theme "HIV/AIDS, Sustainable Development and Civil Society". (Dr. Johns' whole text will be posted on the WFWPI website:



www.wfwp.org) He gave an excellent summary explanation of UNAIDS and the HIV/AIDS crisis. He concluded by stating that the battle against AIDS will be won or lost at the community level and must address the causes and the consequences of the epidemic strongly and fully.

Ms. Vanessa Tobin gave a very informative presentation of the work of UNICEF. She stressed that the most vulnerable beings are children and UNICEF has been striving to help them in every area. To succeed, UNICEF needs continuing support and collaboration from NGOs in the field. She also gave a short summary of the Special Session on Children "A World Fit for Children" which was held at the UN HQ, New York from May 8-10, 2002. (The text of SSGA can be found at the UN website: www.un.org).



Topic III

Governmental Approaches



H.E. Dr. Isaac C. Lamba, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations was the first panelist to speak on this topic. His presentation covered the following three major categories:

1. Outcomes of the Summit, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
2. Malawi's approaches to poverty eradication since 1994 and the lessons learned.
3. The new strategy for poverty eradication as outlined in the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (MPRSP).

Ambassador Lamba stated that WSSD was a first major global meeting bringing together a wide spectrum of stakeholders with diverse interests that converged on a collective goal of sustainable development. Rather than concentrating on ecological issues as had been the case at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, the Johannesburg Summit provided an opportunity for stakeholders in sustainable development to discuss long-term sustainability, global equity and justice as well as the central theme of poverty eradication. While reaffirming the Rio principles and the need for enhanced implementation of Agenda 21, the Summit underscored the urgency of finding practical ways and means of translating the Millennium Declaration into action.

Second, Ambassador Lamba explained the Malawi Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) started in 1994. This PAP was identified by the UN Secretary General as the best approach to poverty reduction and eradication implemented in the first UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006).

Third, He explained about MRRSP which was launched in April 2002 and endorsed by the World Bank in August 2002. The implementation of PRSP takes into consideration certain important issues such as overall coordination with government, emphasis on strengthening existing systems and local ownership and participation. He concluded by saying that MPRSP is a poverty eradication strategy that brings into focus the poverty situation in Malawi, the detailed priorities and costs. It is an action plan that can be translated into an appropriate government's budget and can be monitored by all stakeholders. All socio-economic improvement strategies for poor masses must be utilized to achieve meaningful development in line with the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Activities In Japan 2002

3rd WFPW Japan Youth Volunteers for International Cooperation June 28 to July 18, 2002 in Paraguay



They helped to carry the packages to a ship.

Charity Events to Support International Service Projects



Charity Bazaar in Osaka



WFPW Symposium on International Cooperation
November 18, 2002 at the
National Olympic Memorial Youth Center in Tokyo



Conference Site



The 3rd WFPW International Leadership Workshop November 15 to 17, 2002 in Shonan Village, Kanagawa



100 WFPW leaders from 42 nations participated

Some delegates visited local chapters of WFPW Japan where they were warmly welcomed.



President of WFPW Nepal visited a kindergarten in Gifu



President of WFPW Uganda visited a junior high school in Wakayama which has presented sportswear to Uganda

Activities In Japan 2002

International Study Tours



Japanese foster parent visited her foster child's family in Mongolia



A scene from the Scholarship Presentation Ceremony in Myanmar.



Local Volunteer Activities



A group of WFWP members folding diapers at an old people's home in Okayama.

Committee to Support Foreign Students



A group of scholarship recipients was invited to a WFWP friendship exchange meeting at the famous hot spring in Hakone.



Committee for Education Reform



Member distributes flyers appealing for family values.



Family Summer Camps are regularly held in Aichi and Tokyo

Activities In USA 2002

By Alexa Fish Ward, Pres. WFWP USA

WFWP USA is pleased to report briefly on our activities for the year 2002. In the year 2002, WFWP USA focused on three program areas; Women of Faith, support of International Service Projects, and Peace and Reconciliation Activities.

The Women of Faith project was initiated in the summer of 1999 for the purpose of encouraging greater respect and understanding among women of different faith traditions. Activities in this area in the year 2002 included: a seminar that included inspirational readings from three holy books, interfaith prayer breakfasts, as well as educational programs that focused on the following themes: "Raising Children of Faith", "The Role of Women in Fostering World Peace", and "Women and the Family".

In an effort to support the ongoing international service projects established by WFWP Japan in 1994, in more than forty-seven countries, WFWP USA regional chapters are raising funds for nine of these projects. In 2002, the first full year of this effort, eight fundraisers were held around the country. This effort was led by the Southern California and Washington DC area chapters, with their events grossing more than \$12,000 each. Highlights of these efforts included securing donated venues, a raffle of African art, as well as the sale of one piece of artwork for \$10,000.

Efforts toward Peace and Reconciliation came about through ongoing efforts between Christian and Muslim women in the Los Angeles area. A Bridge of Peace Ceremony that involved more than 100 women leaders was held during the annual meeting of the National Foundation of Women Legislators. President of WFWP USA gave a presentation during the Forum on Eradication of Poverty at the United Nations, sponsored by WFWP International. Ongoing reconciliation programs, entitled "Rainbow of Love", sponsored by the Regional chapter in Atlanta, Georgia were held. WFWP members networked with United Nations Association Chapters nationwide.

The Luncheon Speakers Series was sponsored three times in 2002 at the

Washington Times. Themes included: "Volunteerism: Creating a Culture of Responsibility", "Creating a Culture of Service: Citizenship and Responsibility", as well as "Woman's Role in Saudi Arabia".

WFWP USA members and guests had the opportunity to attend several conferences in 2002 including, "The United States and the United Nations", The World Culture and Sports Festival, WFWP International Tenth Anniversary in Seoul, Korea as well as "Korea, Japan, and the US in the Pacific Era" and "God and World Peace: The Significance of God in a World of Crisis".

The highlight for the year was the WFWP USA Tenth Anniversary Celebration, enjoyed by more than one hundred and twenty guests in Washington DC, on March 23, 2002. The program included remarks by Ambassador Panguene, Embassy of Mozambique. The keynote address was presented by Margaret Buhrmaster, Director of Health Care Reform in New York State. An Awards Ceremony

diplomatic community. A Tribute book was printed, which contained a letter of congratulations from First Lady Laura Bush.

Twenty-two WFWP USA leaders had the opportunity to travel to Japan to attend the Third WFWP International Leaders Workshop held in Kanagawa and Tokyo in November of 2002. Reports by the eight international vice presidents represented the efforts of WFWP leaders in more than 100 nations. Workshop participants attended a Forum on International Cooperation sponsored by WFWP Japan in Tokyo, as well as forty-two fundraising events organized by WFWP chapters throughout Japan.

For the year 2003, WFWP USA is looking forward to hosting the Fourth WFWP International Leaders Workshop in November, in the Washington DC area. The program under consideration includes a two-day workshop for WFWP leaders, briefings at the State Department and on

African Art Festival in Los Angeles, Southern California Chapter. One of the fundraisers to support the Mozambique High School Project.



conferred the following awards: "Founders Award" to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, "Living for the Sake of Others" Award to Maureen Reagan, in memoriam, and to Barbara McCaffrey, "Outstanding Chapter of the Decade" Award to the Southern California WFWP USA chapter, and the "Youth in Service" Award to Eunha Stein. A moving Bridge of Peace Ceremony brought WFWP leaders together with members of the

Capitol Hill, as well as receptions at several embassies.



Commission on the Status of Women: 47th Session

United Nations New York, March 3-14, 2003

By Bonnie Berry

The 47th Commission on the Status of Women convened (CSW) on March 3rd this year, to focus on two major issues. These were:

1. Participation and access of women to the media, and information/communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women, and
2. Women's human rights and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the Special Session for the General Assembly entitled "Women: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty first century" (Beijing +5, held in 2000).

Brief History of CSW

CSW was established as a functioning commission of the Economic and Social Council in June of 1946 to prepare recommendations to the Council regarding the promotion of women's rights in all arenas, be it political, economic, social, civil or education. CSW also has the responsibility to make recommendations in regard to women's rights emergencies that require immediate attention. The main objective for CSW is to promote implementation of the principal that men and women shall have equal rights. Following the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing and the creation of the Platform of Action, the Outcome Document, the General Assembly mandated CSW to implement a follow-up process. The purpose for this follow-up was to regularly review critical areas of concern in the Platform of Action, assess progress and be a catalyst for mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities. It has become the responsibility of CSW to ensure effective global implementation of The Outcome Document from the GA Special Session on Women, "Political Declaration and Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration" and the Platform for Action. The annual 10 day work meeting each March is the forum to take input and review specific areas of concern.

Ms. Angela E.V. King, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Ms. Carolyn Hannan, Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women for the UN, and Ms. Ayse Feride Acar, Chairperson, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, all addressed the CSW. Ms. King gave

introductory remarks. She stressed that even though the Millenium Declaration of 2000's Development Goals only overtly address gender equality and empowerment of women, advancement of gender equality and empowerment will positively impact fulfillment of all MD goals. She also cited the deepening HIV/AIDS crisis in Southern Africa, 58% of victims being women. The reality is that illness and death by HIV/AIDS is decimating families and family structure as well as depleting capital and human resources, creating a situation where children, particularly girl children are left to carry the burden, with vulnerability to violence and deprivation of education. Ms. King stressed the need for nations and NGOs to continue their efforts to solve problems and monitor progress toward goals. She emphasized the importance of women participating in political process, judicial system, and peace keeping through early warning, conflict prevention and peace building processes.

Ms. Hannan explained to the Commission that focusing on selected topics allows the Commission to strengthen implementation of recommendations made in the guiding documents. This focus also aids in refining the global policy framework for gender equity in relation to all themes, and insures practical action on all levels. Scheduling the topic of women and information and communication technology at this spring meeting gives the CSW the opportunity to give input to the World Summit on the Information Society to be held in Geneva this coming December. Ms. Hannan went on to discuss the theme of violence against women. She noted that women's human rights and the elimination of violence against women and girls are inextricably linked. She brought up the increasingly widespread problem of trafficking in women and girls which is requiring increased international focus in order to confront the problem. Ms. Hannan believes that the adoption in 2000 by the General Assembly of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children is a significant development to addressing the problem. Ms. Hannan also reported on

the efforts of DAW to collaborate with other UN entities in creating workshops in nations in need of support to accomplish DAW mandates. Recent workshops were held in Thailand and Mali. She plans to continue with these efforts.

Ms. Ayse Feride Acar, Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) explained that CEDAW has been focusing



on creating strategies for strengthening dialog and reporting from States as well as revising reporting guidelines to be more practical. CEDAW is also working on encouraging more States to participate in human rights treaties. She remarked that there has been a dramatic increase in interaction between CEDAW and inter-governmental processes of promoting gender equality. She also stated that there is a link between ending violence against women and ensuring that media portrays women in a respectful manner.

Statements were submitted to the CSW from a number of Embassies and UN Agencies and NGOs. Each statement submitted by an embassy discussed actions that nation had taken to face and overcome gender inequality, particularly in regard to violence against women, and give access to information and communication technology for women, the two main concerns of this CSW.

H.E. Bennounna, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Morocco (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), in his statement, expressed concern about the "Digital Divide". He stressed that although information and communication technologies are an essential tool to development that can enhance empowerment of women and gender equality, much of the world population are living in poverty and have no access to these tools, increasing the disparity between women in developed and developing nations.

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Moreover, he stated that women in developing nations have far less access to education opportunities, depriving them from contributing more effectively to economic and social development of their communities. He stressed that the divide would only increase without concrete voluntary efforts to facilitate access to information and communication technology through international assistance in training and transfer of technology.

Concerns about trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls were expressed by H.E. Bennouna, Amb. Ho Jin Lee, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea and H.E. Mr. Costas Skandalides, Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization of Greece (on behalf of the European Union).

Trafficking is considered one of the worst forms of violence against women, and must continue to be addressed through international cooperation. Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare of the Republic of Namibia emphasized that primary responsibility for implementing gender policies lies with national governments but the UN is the appropriate place to set goals, commitments and targets for gender equality and gender mainstreaming. He also stressed the importance of strengthening UN agencies that specialize in gender, women's and children's issues such as UNIFEM and UNICEF.

On March 3rd and 4th, the first two days of the meeting, Panels of experts gave presentations about the two main focuses of concern and a high level round table discussion was held. As the Commission continued, there was ample time for discussion and informal debate among CSW member delegates regarding the focus points, with particular emphasis on the impact of HIV/AIDS, the situation of Palestinian women and the crime of trafficking of persons. In addition, many NGO's held caucuses and informational meetings each afternoon.

The CSW adopted agreed upon conclusions regarding Media and Information Technology, the plight of Afghan women, Palestinian women and HIV/AIDS. In brief, it was agreed that increasing women's access to media, information and communication technology is crucial for women's

empowerment. Governments, UN bodies, financial institutions and civil society are urged to ensure women's full participation in national policies, legislation, programmes, and regulatory technical instruments regarding information and communication technology, media and communication. In regard to HIV/AIDS, CSW urges governments to increase the economic independence of women, thereby strengthening them to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS. Also included was a call to donor countries and national budgets to make available the necessary resources available to combat the HIV/AIDS problem. CSW approved text calling upon Israel to ease the return of all refugees and



displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties. In addition, the international community is called upon to continue with urgently needed assistance to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, and help in rebuilding Palestinian institutions. Finally, the Council urged the Afghan Transitional Authority to ensure that all legislative and other measures support full human rights for women and girls, enable women and girls full equal and effective participation in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life, and protect the right to freedom of movement, expression and association for women and girls. Wording also included access to education, effective function of schools, as well as property rights and access to credit, capital and technology.

Although there was much discussion surrounding the topic of violence against women and girls, including extending the definition of trafficking beyond sexual purposes to include forced labor and domestic servitude, no conclusions to revise wording were approved by the CSW.

WFWPI had fifteen women attending various sessions and caucuses during the 10 day meeting.

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preferable to learn to create peace around us as a child than to try to erase the scars of a life of aggressive and dysfunctional behavior.

WFWPI has created schools in several developing countries including Uganda and Kenya, as well as hosted countless projects that always include an educational aspect. These were created on the premise that with proper education and clarity of choice based upon moral and ethical principles, one can, to a healthy degree create and develop him or herself according to the image of his/her choice. One can usually say no to pressure and manipulation if armed with an understanding of right and wrong and their consequences. The eradication of poverty through individual empowerment and beating HIV/AIDS through choosing abstinence until marriage are two of the targets of some of our successful programs.

At the beginning of this UN Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non violence for the Children of the World, the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration and Program of Action which provided us with an agreed definition of the concept of a culture of peace as a set of values, attitudes, traditions and modes of behavior and ways of life, emphasizing:

- Fostering of a culture of peace through education
- Promoting sustainable economic and social development
- Actions to ensure equality between women and men
- Actions to foster democratic participation
- Actions to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity
- Actions to support participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge
- Actions to promote international peace; and security¹

We had rarely felt such an excitement and enthusiasm for projects as we did while reading speeches and reports of those program coordinators and advocates who at moments seemed to tap into something illuminating, unifying and contagious. The fight of human rights defenders while, at times heroic, is also usually a lonelier one.

Many, many within the international NGO community and most certainly within the UN NGO working group on Women and Peace have expressed great hopes to be able to contribute in some way to the success of the Culture of Peace Program.

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In contrast to Ambassador Lamba, who represented a national government, the second panelist on this topic, **Mayor James Garner of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead New York**, represented local government. Mr. Garner, Vice President of US conference of Mayors addressed the role that local government can play in the process of poverty eradication. He shared about some of the work he has done in his own community, including providing job opportunities, clean water, affordable housing and transportation alternatives. Mayor Garner stressed that despite what may go on at the national and international level; leaders at the local level try every day to provide their citizens with safe vibrant communities that have economic opportunities for all.



**Topic IV
Follow-up to World Summit on Sustainable Development**

(Note: Sustainable development is defined as community development that meets the needs of its citizens while striving to improve the surrounding environment.)

Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury, United Nations Under-Secretary General, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Countries & Small Island Developing States who gave an overview of WSSD, was the last speaker.



First, Under-Secretary General Chowdhury commented that action to eradicate poverty like WFWP takes is very important. He also emphasized that WFWP's ethical focus on family values and the culture of peace is equally important. In summarizing WSSD, he stated that poverty eradication is the most important point of the Johannesburg Declaration. His office was newly formed by the Secretary General specifically to deal with the 49 poorest countries. Out of those, 34 are in Africa, the poorest segment of the world.

Mr. Chowdhury explained that aid from developed countries is important but helping those 49 countries to stand on their own is very important. Therefore, the roles of civil society and the private sector (such as WFWP) are to bring advocacy on the international level and implementation on

the local level. Mr. Chowdhury concluded by saying that he and his office will be working very closely with NGOs, civil societies and private sectors to fight to achieve the common goal of eradicating poverty.

Two question and answer sessions followed. The first question and answer session was just after the topic II. Most questions concentrated on WFWP, such as how service projects were structured, how countries were selected for service work, and how governments are involved in the projects. **Ms. Motoko Sugiyama, co-chair of the organizing committee, vice president of WFWP International** responded. She explained that the international volunteer activities and their respective service projects are a structure and labor of love. The work arose out of a sincere desire of members of the human family to come to the aid of other family members in need.



The second question and answer session followed the final topic. At this time, most questions were focused on Mayor Garner and his successful administration. He emphasized the importance of a master plan as a corrective road map in leading us to the right destination of poverty eradication. He also stressed that local governments need to be a loud united voice to higher government leaders.

Distinguished, excellent speakers and an attentive, sincere audience created a very informative and inspirational forum. Everybody who participated in the forum had an uplifting and deep time of learning.



After the forum, a reception was held at the Delegates Dining Hall from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Congratulatory remarks were given by Ambassador Dos Santos of

Mozambique and **Madam Ambassador Tobing-Klein of Suriname**, who attended the forum also. There was entertainment of beautiful songs and music by the Westchester Rockland Family Church choir conducted by Dr. Rumiko Isaksen. Participants enjoyed friendly exchange and fellowship.



Prejudice, continued from pg. 2

why did Jews and Arabs succeed in coexisting many years ago? Who are the main players? Ms. Mahfouz also encouraged us to reflect on the sibling rivalry in the Middle East and compare the hatred in the Middle East with the hatred in other countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. To address this problem we can compare these situations to a society with the absence of a good father figure/political leader. Ms. Mahfouz concluded by saying that perhaps the UN, media and NGOs can become good and nurturing mother figures. Mr. Henri Parens raised the points that prejudice is universal and there are many factors behind prejudice. Psychological development makes it necessary for infants to attach to human beings. Stranger Anxiety makes infants reject strangers early in life, a factor that predisposes prejudice. All children identify with and want to become like the ones who care for them. They need to feel comfortable and be around familiar people. Although these are benign prejudices, they make us vulnerable to malignant prejudice.

There are those who educate their children to hate Palestinians, hate the Hindus, hate the Israelis and hate blacks. There are studies of Israeli and Palestinian children before they know each other. These children thought each other were bad children and were surprised to find out that they are alike. This shows that hate can be programmed. Malignant prejudice kills. Mr. Parens stressed that all of us must work together to expose malignant prejudice.

Mr. George Awad had typical Palestinian upbringing yet works with Jewish people. He said that having many identities allows one to work with many groups. Both Palestinians and Israelis are traumatized and both need a safe place to mourn their losses. The psychic reality of the

Prejudice, continued on pg. 12



2nd Annual Forum On the Eradication of Poverty Reception



JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002



United Nations | World Summit on Sustainable Development | Johannesburg, South Africa | 26 August - 4 September 2002

Key Outcomes of the Summit

- ◆ The Summit reaffirmed sustainable development as a central element of the international agenda and gave new impetus to global action to fight poverty and protect the environment.
- ◆ The understanding of sustainable development was broadened and strengthened as a result of the Summit, particularly the important linkages between poverty, the environment and the use of natural resources.
- ◆ Governments agreed to and reaffirmed a wide range of concrete commitments and targets for action to achieve more effective implementation of sustainable development objectives.
- ◆ Energy and sanitation issues were critical elements of the negotiations and outcomes to a greater degree than in previous international meetings on sustainable development.
- ◆ Support for the establishment of a world solidarity fund for the eradication of poverty was a positive step forward.
- ◆ Africa and NEPAD were identified for special attention and support by the international community to better focus efforts to address the development needs of Africa.
- ◆ The views of civil society were given prominence at the Summit in recognition of the key role of civil society in implementing the outcomes and in promoting partnership initiatives. Over 8,000 civil society participants attended the Summit, reinforced by parallel events which included major groups, such as, NGOs, women, indigenous people, youth, farmers, trade unions, business leaders, the scientific and technological community and local authorities as well as Chief Justices from various countries.
- ◆ The concept of partnerships between governments, business and civil society was given a large boost by the Summit and the Plan of Implementation. Over 220 partnerships (with \$235 million in resources) were identified in advance of the Summit and around 60 partnerships were announced during the Summit by a variety of countries.

Complete text available at <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>

WFWP Statement, continued from pg. 4

Yet while still early in our decade and surely far from ushering in an era of lasting peace, we detect a loss of momentum. In some cases decentralizing seems to have meant dissipation. However within the OHGHR, we found human rights education curriculum well-developed and full of potential, but even that needs to find its way to the classrooms as called for in resolution 2002/74.

While many of us are hoping that this illumination in our journey does not pass us by, we realize that a transformation of that magnitude calls on input from every

sector. We are all here in the interest of world peace not to forever raise issue with human rights violations but to create a world in which there will be few. This would be the opportunity to set a new precedent a concerted decision to devote a certain percentage of our energies to concretize a model of that peaceful society that we all hope for, and at least as children, believed in.



Ingeborg Breines and Ingrid Eide, The Culture of Peace from a Gender Perspective Dec. 2002.

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Palestinians is that they have held a long term hurt that they blame on the west. They feel they are being made to pay for mistakes of other people and they have long felt excluded. The solution that Mr. Awad offers is to start listening to the other side's point of view, even if it is difficult to hear. Robert Wallerstein, Past President, International Psychoanalytical Association was the next speaker. He pointed out that both sides have claims that go way back in history. Both sides are holding on to glories of the past. Also, there is a rise in "fundamentalism" in every religion right now. Mr. Wallerstein stressed that both sides must mourn the past, but keep it in the past, otherwise there is no ability to move forward into the future. He concluded by saying that it takes remarkable courage for someone to give in to the other side. He cited the great courage it took for former South African Pres. de Klerk to recognize that apartheid was wrong and give up his position to Mandela.



Upcoming Events



May 15, 2003

International Day of Families



September 8-10, 2003

WFWP Workshop

at the 56th DPI / NGO Conference

UNHQ New York, USA



October 17, 2003

International Day of the

Eradication of Poverty



November 1-5, 2003 (Sat-Wed)

WFWP Leaders Workshop

Washington DC, USA



November 6, 2003* (Thu.)

3rd Forum on the

Eradication of Poverty

UNHQ New York, USA



*tentative