

‘WE *the* PEOPLES’

A woman in a patterned dress carries a young child on her back. To the right, a young girl in a pink shirt sits on a large, stylized yellow quotation mark that frames the main title.

A Call to **ACTION**
for the **UN** Millennium
DECLARATION



The report was prepared with the assistance of a team based at the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) (New York) and the North-South Institute (Ottawa), in consultation with the Centre for the Study of Global Governance, London School of Economics and Political Science.

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EXECUTIVE

summary

This report provides a 'snapshot' of civil society engaging with the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

The implementation of the Millennium Declaration and its Development Goals provides fertile ground for deeper ongoing collaboration between the United Nations and civil society organizations.

Civil society organizations, responding to a survey, document diverse contributions to achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and Goals. More than half have initiated projects to this end. Much more can and will be done. Many more people need to be informed about the objectives of the Declaration, and many attitudes towards collaboration and policy reform must change.

This report details many of the building blocks.

It calls for civil society support for a Global Millennium Campaign which includes:

- ▶ Developing opportunities, networks and coalitions for strengthening the global effort for full implementation of the Declaration, particularly in developing countries
- ▶ Collaboration with CSOs monitoring progress
- ▶ Promoting awareness of progress reports in the United Nations and more broadly
- ▶ Creating specific proposals for more effective forms of partnership between the United Nations and civil society in support of the Millennium Declaration
- ▶ New initiatives in access and cooperation between civil society, the UN and its agencies and governments at all levels
- ▶ Institutional reform and development to democratize global governance and serve the values and objectives of the Declaration

The World Federation of United Nations Associations proposes, building on the initiative of this report to develop an annual review of civil society engagement in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and its Development Goals.

THE Millennium DECLARATION PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING we do

The United Nations Millennium Declaration sets the global agenda for the start of the 21st century. Adopted at the Millennium Summit (New York, September 6–8, 2000), by 147 heads of state, and 191 nations in all, the Millennium Declaration defines the values, thematic issues and goals, some specific and time-bound, to guide the daily activities of the UN and its programs, so that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people.*

Values for a new century:

Freedom

Equality

Solidarity

Tolerance

Respect for nature

Shared responsibility



Objectives for today:

Peace

Security & disarmament

Development & poverty eradication

Protecting our common environment

Human rights

Democracy & good governance

Protecting the vulnerable

Meeting the special needs of Africa

Strengthening the United Nations

At the core of the policy and institutional reforms endorsed in the Millennium Declaration is a commitment to ensuring that the United Nations serves the needs and hopes of people everywhere – giving new life to the opening words of the UN Charter – “*We the Peoples*”. Through this Declaration, the United Nations has made “*putting people at the center of everything we do*” its guiding motto for the 21st Century.

In the Declaration, Heads of State and Government called for:

- ▶ more inclusive political processes, allowing for genuine participation by all citizens in all our countries (para 25) and
- ▶ greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization’s goals and programs (para 30)

The Millennium Declaration signaled a new co-operative relationship between the UN and other multilateral bodies, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). This relationship is based on a shared policy commitment to a people-centered approach to alleviating poverty. The top Millennium Development Goal (MDG) is to reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day. Due to their interrelated nature, progress needs to be made simultaneously on all the 8 Goals – relating to education, gender disparity, mortality, health and the environment – and everyone needs to be involved: governments, international organizations, business and civil society.

The emerging global civil society, in all its diversity, has a vital role to play at all levels – local, national, regional and global. There are many dividing lines within civil society, but it is around the values, policy issues and goals expressed in the Millennium Declaration that a global consensus has been emerging. It is clear that the United Nations now regards partnerships with civil society as a necessity.

The implementation of the Millennium Declaration and Goals provides fertile ground for a deeper ongoing collaboration between the United Nations and civil society organizations. This report details many of the building blocks and calls for civil society participation in the Global Millennium Campaign.

(*) United Nations, *Millennium Declaration*, New York, United Nations Department of Public Information, September 2000, DPI/2163

The emerging global civil society and the Millennium Declaration

The Millennium Declaration builds on the global conferences of the 1990s which dealt with an interconnected series of global issues – children (1990) sustainable development (1992), human rights (1993), gender equality (1995), social development (1995), habitat and food security (1996). These conferences saw an explosion in the number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 set the pace – it attracted 19,000 NGO representatives. The number more than doubled to 37,000 NGOs at the Beijing Conference on Women in 1995.

The proliferation of NGOs and their networks and alliances, rapidly strengthened by new communications technologies, has given rise to the emerging global civil society – a vast, interconnected and multi-layered social space. Global civil society has no *'collective voice'*, only its constituent individuals, group initiatives, organizations and networks that act and interact.

The spread of the term *'global civil society'*, reflects an underlying social reality.

What we can observe in the 1990s is the emergence of a supranational sphere of social and political participation in which citizens groups, social movements, and individuals engage in dialogue, debate, confrontation, and negotiation with each other and with various governmental actors – international, national, and local – as well as the business world, trades unions, charities, think tanks and international commissions.

Anheier, H., Glasius, M., and Kaldor, M. (2001) *Global Civil Society 2001*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The Millennium Year brought together representatives of civil society in a first UN *'We the Peoples'* Millennium Forum, which produced its own Declaration and Agenda for Action. Its vision of a world that is human centered and genuinely democratic set the stage for the Millennium Summit.

Civil society engagement with the United Nations continues to grow, particularly around the themes and goals of the Millennium Declaration. More and more citizen networks are taking new forms of action for the eradication of poverty, disease, illiteracy and unsustainable environmental practices. Grass roots pressures are building for more democratic and transparent forms of global governance, seeking inclusive *'global'* decision-making which takes much better account of the complexities of each local context. This heightened awareness of the need to strengthen links between the local and global is giving new meaning to the terms *"dialogue"* and *"partnership"* and adding momentum to pressures for greater inclusiveness, openness and accountability in United Nations processes.

There are an estimated 13,425 international NGOs of which one quarter have emerged since 1990. The number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) doubled in the last five years to 2236 by July 2002.



Among many civil society organizations and social movements, there has been a growing sense of unease and of urgency. Demands for significant, and quite radical, change in dominant economic policies and global institutions are being expressed through protests, lobbies, petitions and campaigns at the national level and in globe-circling efforts to change World Bank policy, end the debt burden, democratize the IMF and radically change the WTO.

The Millennium Declaration stands at the crossroads. The visions and hopes of civil society are, in good part, embodied there. The challenge to go much further, deeper and more urgently continues.

Civil society participants look to the United Nations to play a leadership role in the struggle for human rights, social justice, poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability and peace. The Coalition for the International Criminal Court, a broad-based network of over 1,000 NGOs, international law experts and other civil society groups, have been at the forefront of the campaign to create an International Criminal Court. Amongst Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), new campaigns are emerging for trade justice, the regulation of Transnational Corporations (TNCs), democratization of International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and the adoption of sustainable development practices.

The UN is itself becoming a catalyst in forming global coalitions for change.

- ▶ As a result of the \$1 billion gift from Ted Turner which supports the UN Foundation, the UN Fund for International Partnerships is linking business and civil society groups into the work of UN Agencies and Programs.
- ▶ The Global Compact reconciles the creative forces of private entrepreneurship with the needs of the disadvantaged and the requirements of future generations. Hundreds of companies around the world are in partnership with leading CSOs to promote support for UN principles on human rights, labor standards and the environment. Many of their projects are focused on strategies and actions to realize the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The NGO community has different views on the value of the Global Compact; for the NGO critique see www.corpwatch.org.
- ▶ UNICEF's 'Say Yes for Children' campaign secured 96 million signatures.
- ▶ Consistent with the call in the Monterrey Consensus for a "global information campaign", the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is launching a Global Millennium Campaign as an integral part of its strategy for implementing the Development Goals.

Grounds for collaboration

The Declaration has been given a certain expectation because of the uniqueness of the moment of its birth and the relative coherence of the leadership of the international community in its launching.

The Millennium Forum recommended an ongoing Global Civil Society Forum in a continuing institutional relationship with the UN's General Assembly. CSOs have experimented independently in several global civil society encounters, including the World Social Forum (Porto Alegre, Brazil, 2001, 2002, 2003), the World Civil Society Forum (Geneva, Switzerland 2002), the Global Governance 2002 (Montreal, Canada) and CONGO's Asia Civil Society Forum (Bangkok, Thailand).

At a global level, the Secretary-General has been clear on the need for CSO involvement in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. In what ways could he engage CSOs as he evaluates and reports on progress and suggests new courses of action?

On a regional level, the UN is recognizing the indispensable role of CSOs in development, and in partnership with WFUNA and the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO), has formed the NGO Informal Regional Network (IRENE) to develop NGO capacities and opportunities to participate in the regions that need it most. It has been set up in Latin America and Africa; the next meeting will be for East European NGOs in Romania in December. ECOSOC decided at its last session to set up a General Voluntary Trust fund in support of the UN NGO Informal Regional Network. As this report demonstrates, the role of civil society in meeting the Millennium Development Goals is showing great potential, but it needs to be further strengthened and extended, and particularly in developing countries.

At a national level, CSOs could be involved in the preparation of UNDP country progress reports, set up their own monitoring and evaluation capacities and initiate partnerships to bridge socio-economic and cultural divides within the community.

Many of the responding CSOs strongly support national and global campaigns for the Millennium Declaration and the Goals. Initiatives on the part of the United Nations and its agencies to consult and collaborate in the development of a truly effective and universal campaign are likely to be well-received.

Discussion of the continuing collaboration of CSOs in the achievement of the Declaration and Goals should include consideration of how the relationship between the UN and the emerging global civil society can be further developed.

*In a letter (April, 2001)
WFUNA Secretary-
General, Ambassador
Donald Blinken, wrote
to heads of state and
government to commend
them for approving the
Millennium Declaration
and to assure them of the
active support of United
Nations Associations
(UNAs), as a peoples
movement for the UN,
in promoting awareness
of the Declaration and
in implementing its
goals and objectives.*

A snapshot OF BODIES in motion

An invitation was sent to diverse civil society organizations to respond to an electronic questionnaire about the Millennium Declaration and Goals. () Together with material gathered through WFUNA's electronic newsletter, there emerges a profile of a phenomenally diverse series of endeavors.*

Responses were reviewed in terms of gender, regional and organizational size categories to check for significant particularities of view. The responses, given their limited number, are no more than a snapshot and findings are therefore *indicative, not conclusive.*

The Declaration has already had significant effect. Of organizations participating in the survey, 58.8% indicate that their organization has launched initiatives aimed at the implementation of specific Millennium Declaration goals.

When asked about the relevance of the Millennium Declaration and its Development Goals to civil society organizations, 90.9% of respondents said they were "important" to civil society.

Enhanced awareness is essential to the success of the Declaration and goals. Of organizations responding to our survey, no less than 30% indicated that they were not familiar with the Millennium Declaration. Much remains to be done.

* Sources:

This report is based on three primary streams of information:

1. The electronic newsletter of the WFUNA, *UN Connections* www.wfuna.org
2. The initial electronic survey, based on the Declaration and four selected theme areas. The survey was circulated to more than 5,000 groups, with the assistance of a number of non-governmental organizations and networks. The survey was available in English, French and Spanish. Responses were received from 244 groups in more than 75 countries. 121 came from 20 OECD countries, the rest from 46 developing and 11 least developed countries.
 - ▶ A number based in OECD countries are on closer examination international networks, federations and associations as are a few based in non-OECD countries.
 - ▶ Latin American and the Caribbean groups provided 44 responses, Asia 29 and Africa 36.
 - ▶ Responses were sent in English (66.4%) French (14.3%) and Spanish (18.9%). Groups from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe responded.
 - ▶ Most, by far, are national, sub-national and local organizations. Three-quarters of these have less than 20 employees and budgets less than \$500,000 a year.
 - ▶ The most often cited strategies of work are capacity building and training, advocacy, research and development project management. The majority work with women and with the economically disadvantaged.
3. Research done by the authors and editorial team, along with suggestions received from a variety of sources.

Many cite international connections:

- ▶ 40% indicate an intention to participate in the WSSD Conference in Johannesburg.
- ▶ More than a quarter were represented at the Beijing Women's Conference and another quarter at the Millennium UN NGO Forum.
- ▶ Almost as many attended either the Monterrey Financing for Development Conference or the Copenhagen Social Development Summit.
- ▶ 40% indicated an ongoing relationship with the ECOSOC, and many note relations with the Non-Government Liaison Service and other agencies within the UN system.

Reaching out/bringing people in: information

Civil society organizations have a great capacity to enhance public awareness. Several actively support a global campaign for the Millennium Declaration Goals, on the model of the land-mines campaign, eliciting energies, mobilizing pressure and public will, monitoring and evaluating progress, moving ahead. CSOs from all over the world have suggestions:

► *Spread the word*

Translate the Declaration and Goals into all national and regional languages. For example the UNAs of Bangladesh, Finland, Hungary and Turkey have produced local language versions.

Highlight the Declaration and Goals in institutions of public education at all levels

Produce simplified popular versions, simple leaflets

Highlight specific goals (children, for example) and intermediate targets

Enlarge direct communication between the UN and local civil society organizations, use electronic communications to feed local NGOs with information and inspiration

► *Network*

Make sure every NGO and community organization is familiar with the Goals

Circulate case studies, highlighting 'best practice' activities with local populations.

Create national civil society follow-up committees to develop score cards, monitor and evaluate progress

► *Advocacy*

Engage political forces, beyond the Government Executive.

Build awareness in relevant government ministries; get them to "*mainstream*" the goals.

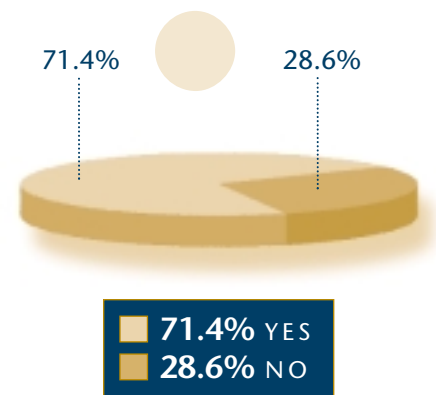
Urge legislators to turn the Declaration into national legislation, emphasizing implementation.

Lobby politicians to promote civil society partnerships in all government activities relating to the implementation of the goals.

► *Participation in e-voting and surveys*

WFUNA collaborate with the International Labor Organization's World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization to conduct regular questionnaires. A first question could be: *What would you prioritize as the five most important things to be done to create inclusive globalization and fulfill the promises of the Millennium Declaration in your country?*

Is your organization familiar with the United Nations Millennium Declaration (MD) and Millennium Declaration Goals (MDGs)?



The UNA-New Zealand convened a civil society forum on the Declaration and Goals at the Parliament House in Wellington.

At the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre (2002) Social Watch and UNDP sponsored a workshop on a campaign for the MDGs. CSO participants agreed that it was not enough to just campaign for meeting targets. An effective campaign strategy needs to take into account the need to reform the policy framework, at the national and global levels.

Moving governments along

How do CSOs rate the response of their own government and other governments in implementing the Declaration and Goals? A small minority of 5% consider the response of governments to be excellent. From 60-80% of CSOs rated their own governments response as poor, with the most critical, 79.2%, being Latin American groups. Generally groups perceived foreign governments as slightly more positive than their own.

CSO respondents have suggested strategies for implementing the Millennium Declaration and its Development Goals:

- ▶ More specific targets and time-tables *“with commitments from all parties”* (US)
- ▶ National action plans, with specific breakdowns of objectives, timelines, targets and resources. (Cameroon, Croatia, India)
- ▶ National progress reports (Bulgaria, Guyana), a quarterly progress report produced by a national follow-up committee. (Cameroon)
- ▶ Greater recognition, greater space, greater engagement of local and national CSOS by governments and by agencies, they have much to contribute in terms of what works and what doesn't. (DRCongo)
- ▶ Apply *“enforceable sanctions”* (US), what one group termed *“ways to ‘punish’ governments with policies that oppose the MDGs”*. (Tunisia)
- ▶ Official UN statements of *“non-cooperation”* should be issued against countries that don't show support for the goals (Bulgaria), public condemnation of governments who don't adopt rapid measures to relieve poverty. (Argentina)
- ▶ Ask *“the UN to help organizations that are fighting for a different globalization.”* (Niger)
- ▶ The UN can have a more intensive relationship with social movements and NGOs. (Lebanon)
- ▶ Mainstreaming CSO involvement throughout the UN system, accompanied by greater transparency. (Dominican Republic)

One CSO thought it important to note that relations between UN and CSOs are not always independent of attitudes of the member states and that not all governments are supportive to CSO-UN relations.

The Millennium goals at year two: gaps and cross-purposes

When asked about elements essential to reach the goals, 91.4% of responding CSOS cited development assistance, and 84.3% cited debt relief. Democratic controls and market controls were cited by a majority of groups.

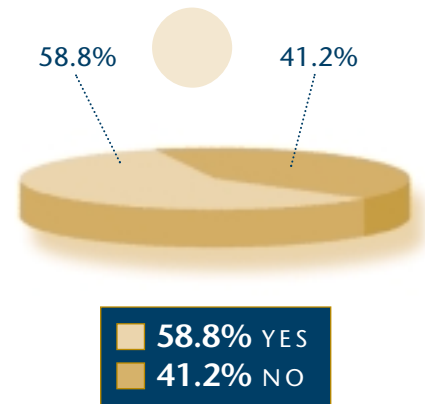
Asked whether the Millennium Declaration and Goals go far enough, CSOs as a whole are almost evenly split. Some 65.9% of OECD CSOs consider the declaration and goals do not go far enough. Only some 37.7% of developing country CSOs agree. Considerably more, 60%, say that the goals go far enough. Among this group, Asians are the most positive, and Latin Americans are the most negative.

How likely is it, viewed in mid-2002, that goals will be reached by 2015? Overall, responding CSOs tilt towards “unlikely”. But examined regionally, one discovers that while OECD-based CSOS are almost 2 to 1 convinced the goals will not be fully realized (55.9% to 21.8%), those in developing countries are much more positive, with 57.4% indicating achievement is likely or very likely, and only 26.5% predicting unlikely or very unlikely goal achievement.

How is this divergence to be explained? Is it that those close to development projects see more concrete evidence of progress? Is it that those closer to centres of power are more skeptical about broken promises? Certainly a number of CSO and official bodies are highly concerned about present trends.

The survey asked CSOs how they rated the adequacy of the Declaration and goals in addressing particular population groups. Over 60% of respondents were positive about the focus on children, women, persons living with HIV/AIDS and the economically disadvantaged. Only 40% felt that the focus on indigenous peoples or the disabled was adequate. Respondents mentioned their concerns for other groups, including aged and youth, socially excluded, political prisoners and disappeared persons.

Has your organization launched any initiatives aimed at the implementation of specific Millennium Declaration Goals (MDGs)?



In a timely evaluation of progress on the Millennium Development Goals, the British CSO ActionAid says that if we'd met MDGs over the last 12 years, 15 million children in Africa would have lived to see their fifth birthday. *"If current trends continue to 2014, this figure will rise to 66 million [dead] – the same as the entire population of the UK."*

www.actionaid.org

FREEDOM *from* WANT

THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Goal:

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

Goal:

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Extreme Poverty Alleviation

A diverse range of community organizations, non-governmental agencies, unions and women's organizations are deeply and variously involved in *combating poverty* and seeking its elimination, through self-help, community credit, training and infrastructure support, gender and *group-specific projects*. Many organizations have been doing so since before the UN was founded, others have emerged to respond to the needs of particular groups, or to press particular policy changes.

- ▶ NetAid has two programs to address goals relating to extreme poverty alleviation: the World Schoolhouse program is focused on access to education, and the Online Volunteering program, managed by the UN Volunteers programme, allows individuals anywhere to support NGOs working in and for communities in developing countries to counter factors that contribute to poverty. www.netaid.org
- ▶ Mukomo Multi-Purpose Youth Organization for Awareness Building and Development (Uganda) trains farmers in sustainable farming methods, encourages tree planting, agro forestry and re-forestation, providing a good example of local programs that can be expanded in a larger context. www.mumyo.kabissa.org

Many CSOs are actively *fund-raising* for the alleviation of poverty and hunger, such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) which has urgently appealed for \$61.9 million to help 1.3 million people who are struggling with both the effects of HIV/AIDS and severe food shortages in Southern Africa. www.ifrc.org

Others are allies in changing conditions that recreate poverty. Campaigns to eliminate child labour in specific industries like cocoa production in Ghana or pryrotechnics in the Philippines complement global efforts by bodies like the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

- ▶ The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization aims to ensure that all children have equal access to vaccines against major killers that primarily affect the world's poorest people. www.vaccinealliance.org
- ▶ UN Volunteers are very active in many parts of the world, for example in Burkina Faso they have a project to counsel an estimated 1,200 street children on educational and vocational options that can improve their future.

CSOs are in the vanguard seeking to *scale up resources* available for the poor. Advocacy campaigns, including Jubilee 2000, Jubilee South and Drop the Debt, advanced *debt reduction* and the proposal for cancellation on the global agenda. CSO pressure helped to make *increased development aid* central to the result of the Financing for Development Conference (Monterrey, 2002). UNA-UK lobbied the British Chancellor of the Exchequer to increase ODA to 0.7 of GDP.

Civil society groups, whether working on sustainable agriculture or at the level of lobbying the WTO on policy, understand the complexities of the challenge. Community level efforts on credit for women in Kenya or internet access in Vietnamese schools may only be sustainable if overall debt, trade and domestic investment conditions become more favorable.

- ▶ Commonwealth CSOs, having gathered in Fiji, Jamaica, Ghana, Sri Lanka and London are calling on their Finance Ministers in September, 2002 to come “to a consensus for debt cancellation” and for the “establishment of a transparent, independent and neutral process and mechanism on debt”. www.cfmm.2002.org
- ▶ Trade Justice Campaign lobbies Governments of the richest nations to rewrite the international rules for trade, putting poverty reduction and environmental protection first. The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), Christian Aid, OXFAM, are all members. www.christian-aid.org or www.cafod.org

UNCTAD's latest report on the Least Developed Countries (+) signals that the number of people in extreme poverty in the LDCs is greater than previously thought, approximately 307 million, estimated to rise to 420 million over the coming 15 years. None of the 49 LDCs is on track to meet the goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015.

(+) *The Least Developed Countries Report 2002: Escaping the Poverty Trap*, Geneva, UNCTAD, 2002. www.unctad.org/en/pub/ps1ldc02.htm

Goal:

Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Medecins sans Frontiers and OXFAM, together with many community and AIDS service groups are defending the right to health against the corporate protectionism of the intellectual property (TRIPS) agreement under the WTO. In late 2001 they elicited a declaration from the WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, recognizing the importance of public health and opening the way for some, but not all, developing countries to take emergency action to provide pharmaceuticals to people living with HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS

CSOs and ASOs (AIDS Service Organizations) are leading the global combat against HIV/AIDS. Only through community-based testimony, national and international networking and street protest has the threat of HIV/AIDS and the promise of prevention, care, treatment, support and research been raised on the UN Agenda. The reluctance or downright resistance of governments has been among the initial obstacles to overcome. Some of the most original partnerships and dynamic civil society networks have developed in response to this disease, whether dealing with AIDS affected children, support for public health or access to life-saving pharmaceuticals. Agencies active in community health find themselves allied with sex workers organizations, gay and lesbian advocates and development aid agencies.

- ▶ In Cambodia, the Maryknoll Seedling of Hope Project organizes group homes where HIV/AIDS affected residents can share household chores and provide support for each other and a family environment.
- ▶ The International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO) seeks to mobilize communities, articulate their needs, get those living with and affected with HIV/AIDS involved in all aspects of response to the disease. ICASO brings community voices to UN meetings on HIV/AIDS www.icaso.org/
- ▶ The UNA-Kenya is fund-raising for HIV/AIDS orphans through football tournaments and a public walk involving former military soldiers in peace-keeping missions.
- ▶ El Salvador's nongovernmental Fundación Nacional para la Prevención, Educación y Acompañamiento de las Personas con VIH/Sida, with assistance from the United Nations, and other aid organizations, have reduced the cost of anti-retroviral medicines nationally by 50 percent.

The fulfillment of the US\$10 billion per year objective of the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is urgently needed to sustain credibility.

Even with significant contributions from private donors like the Gates Foundation, the targets can only be met from government funds. Here the role of CSOs is absolutely essential – many are campaigning to get governments to pay their fair share.

FREEDOM *from* FEAR

THE SECURITY AGENDA

Conflict Prevention

There can be no “*half-way*” evaluation when it comes to the prevention of conflict. The key to resolving conflicts depends on how far the world community progresses towards the realization of all the MDGs.

With the heightened global awareness of terrorism, following the September 11 terrorist attack and continuing tensions in the Middle East and elsewhere, civil society is mobilizing around issues of conflict prevention. The 55th Annual DPI/NGO Conference in New York (2002) has the theme “*Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility*”. Civil society has a critical role to play, both on its own and in partnership with the UN, in building a firm foundation of peace in post-conflict situations and in addressing the deep-rooted structural causes of violent conflicts. Identifying best practices, enhancing regional and global peoples’ networks, civil society participation helps to ensure that any peace is a lasting peace.

Women are increasingly active, innovative and influential.

- ▶ The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom partnered with other global NGOs such as the Urgent Action Fund, and a number of local African women’s groups, such as Isis-Women’s International Cross-Cultural Exchange (ISIS-WICCE), the Rwanda Women’s Network, and the African Womens Caucus to provide briefing papers to the UN Security Council Mission to the Great Lakes region in Africa this year. www.peacewomen.org
- ▶ Israeli and Palestinian women peace activists told an informal meeting of the Security Council that any future negotiations in the Middle East need the input of civil society, especially women, if a settlement is to win the trust of both Israelis and Palestinians. The women are members of an Israeli/Palestinian peace coalition called The Jerusalem Link. www.batshalom.org/1.htm

Efforts to harness information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide are bringing a peace dividend:

- ▶ The NGO Seeds of Peace enables youth from regions of conflict including the Middle East, the Balkans, Cyprus, India-Pakistan and the US to work together toward peace using the internet and web-based technology. It maintains a secure listserv where youth can communicate, even in regions where all other forms of communication are restricted or prohibited. www.seedsofpeace.org

United Nations Associations around the world are taking initiatives. The UNA-Malaysia has a program of dialogues with and between ambassadors based in Kuala Lumpur on conflict resolution, action against terrorism and racial discrimination. The UNA-USA and Harvard University have set up the Partnership on Peace-Building and Rule of Law to link in-country legal practitioners with global policy-makers so that local experiences and assessments on the rule of law may be integrated into future peace-building efforts.

Goal:

To make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction.

New research and educational tools are being developed and distributed world-wide. The Hague Appeal for Peace Global Campaign for Peace Education aims to introduce education for peace into all schools at all levels in every country in the world as well as in ‘out-of-school’/community settings. Among the resources produced by the Hague Appeal Youth Network is “Learning to Abolish War: Teaching Toward a Culture of Peace”. <http://youth.haguepeace.org/hapyouth/introduction.htm>

a SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

Goal:

To make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol

Goal:

To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies

Sustainable Development

The Millennium Declaration outlines many of the necessary steps required to move towards practices of sustainable development. These steps were set in motion at the 1992 UN Earth Summit and have enrolled an ever increasing number of actors in the effort to save the planet from destructive practices and to make corporations and governments more accountable. The way forward is clearly set out in instruments like the Biodiversity Protocol and the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change, as well as in the documents of the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development. (WSSD)

Civil society groups worldwide want to make sure that these agreements are ratified, fully operational and that the principles of sustainable development find their way into shopping baskets of suburban Marseilles, WTO trade policy and World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

CSOs have been instrumental in *monitoring and informing, in protesting and lobbying*.

- ▶ To accelerate governments' ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, a 200-day campaign "Go for Kyoto" was run by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature to bring the Protocol into force in 2002. www.panda.org
- ▶ Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), a global information and advocacy network of more than 18,000, predominantly women, updated its manual, Women's Action Agenda for a Healthy and Peaceful Planet 2015, which reports on the diverse experiences of thousands of women striving to bring the Agenda 21 agreements to life. www.wedo.org
- ▶ Skateboarders met ambassadors of Embassies in Berlin, to wake up "sleepy world leaders" to environmental threat, and to urge action at the Johannesburg WSSD about deforestation and climate change. www.greenpeace.org
- ▶ During the International Year of Volunteers, 2001, UN Volunteers worked closely with NGOs in the Caribbean subregion on Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme. In St. Lucia a national UN Volunteer helped set up the Praslin Conservation and Development Foundation to co-ordinate community action for conservation and development at the grassroots level. www.unv.org

RENEWING^{the} UN

THE INSTITUTIONAL AGENDA

Through the Millennium Declaration, world leaders affirmed both their faith in the Charter and their support for the institutional renewal of the United Nations to meet the challenges of globalization. The Declaration's values, thematic issues and Development Goals constitute a global agenda premised on *"putting people at the center of everything we do"*.

CSOs, particularly those working for greater democracy, sometimes find themselves at odds with the dominant policy framework pressed on their governments by international financial institutions, which are now seen to be at variance with the Millennium Declaration's values and principles. It calls, as one CSO put it, for a "redefinition of the mission of international financial institutions, so that they don't dictate policies to states contrary to the Millennium Declaration".

It is clear that civil society campaigns and protests for change can and do make a difference to policy at the highest levels. It is increasingly recognized that the concerns of people protesting in the streets against the World Bank, IMF and World Trade Organization had a message that needed to be heard: Life is about more than economics and democracy should govern markets, not the other way around. If it had not been for these protests, changes would not be occurring as quickly as they are. The Millennium Declaration was a response to the need for change – it is under the umbrella of the Declaration that the United Nations is now working in closer collaboration with the World Bank and the IMF on strategies to eradicate poverty and unsustainable environmental practices. The Millennium Declaration can be a further catalyst for change.

A repeatedly used word is "accountability". Accountability needs to be two way, donors and recipients, rich and poor. In this regard women's, environmental, labor and human rights organizations are undertaking a multitude of projects to make government policies transparent, to increase public alertness of the commitment governments have made at the United Nations and to seek redress where effects are negative or regressive.

To follow progress on the commitments made at the Copenhagen Social Summit and the Beijing Women's Conference, Social Watch, was set up as a collaborative network of civil society organizations in more than 50 countries. Its reports detail, in statistical evaluations and country reports, the chequered progress toward goals which pre-date but inform the Millennium Declaration. Watch member groups are alert to the Millennium Goals and include evaluation of country performance in their reviews. www.socialwatch.org

Two NGOs, Transparency International and Social Accountability International have come together to produce a list of voluntary principles to counter bribery and corruption. www.globalcorruptionreport.org

The United Nations Organization was built for an international world, but we now live in a global world.

TOWARDS *global* GOVERNANCE

OPENING

THE DOOR TO CIVIL *society*

The UN needs to open its doors more widely to enable civil society to participate more actively in building proposals and consensus for new global policy and structural changes.

The launch in May this year of the UN Forum for Indigenous Issues was the result of concerted efforts of indigenous peoples and their civil society allies. Pleased as they are about this new development, they are resisting government pressure to abandon the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples, as it has a mandate to develop a legal instrument, while the Forum is limited to providing advice to ECOSOC. The role of civil society in protecting and strengthening new institutions has been most effectively demonstrated in the case of the new International Criminal Court which has been under intense scrutiny and subject to challenges about its legitimacy. Civil society actors are playing a vital role in defending its viability as an independent and truly universal organization.

There are inherent tensions in the relationship between civil society and inter-governmental institutions, but the challenge is to develop more effective consultative relationships so that the views of people in developing countries and those who are poor or marginalized can be heard and their concerns better integrated into the decision-making process.

In preparing the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, the UN held innovative hearings on policy with civil society and with the private sector. However, very few if any of the CSO proposals could be found in the results of the Monterrey Conference. This experience should not negate the importance of the UN's attempt to engage CSOs in the debate, but provoke evaluation and further innovation. The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues in preparation for the Johannesburg Summit 2002 together with the Global People's Forum at the event continue the engagement.

Building on initiatives taken in the ECOSOC high-level meetings, such as CONGO's NGO Forum, the UN should continue to expand and experiment with stakeholder participation in policy discussions, engaging CSOs in evaluating and enhancing the effectiveness of the initiatives.

There are many ideas being put forward and discussed, including a call to give NGOs consultative status at the General Assembly or to create an advisory or contributing body to the ECOSOC and/or to the General Assembly, envisaged as a global civil society policy forum. Such a forum might be oriented to global issues on the UN agenda, but should have the ability to bring civil society pre-occupations and priorities forward.

Pilot projects should be initiated to develop innovative and more inclusive consultation processes and to test and evaluate their results.

The Millennium Declaration was designed as an instrument of political impetus and integration. There is a great need for the emerging global civil society to become fully engaged in implementing the Millennium Declaration.

It is only in this way that the United Nations can become a more effective instrument for *"we the peoples"*.

WFUNA



is a network of 100 member associations in countries around the world. WFUNA extends a particular thanks to the following UNAs for participating in the e-survey:

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UNA – Ethiopia

UNA – Finland

UNA – Gibraltar

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