

**GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE
PREVENTION
OF ARMED
CONFLICT**

FROM REACTION TO PREVENTION

**CIVIL SOCIETY FORGING
PARTNERSHIPS TO PREVENT
VIOLENT CONFLICT
AND BUILD PEACE**

**A GLOBAL CONFERENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
IN NEW YORK, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS
19-21 JULY 2005**



INTRODUCTION

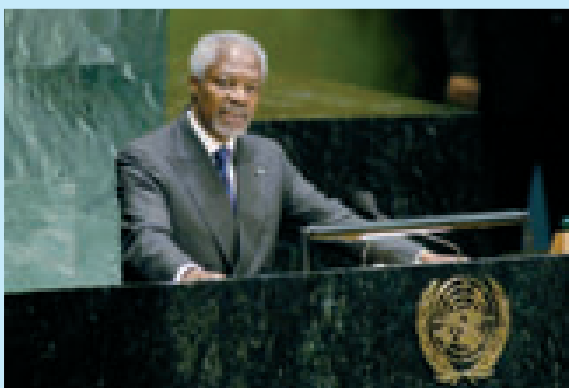
“I urge NGOs with an interest in conflict prevention to organise an international conference of local, national and international NGOs on their role in conflict prevention and future interaction with the United Nations in this field.”

Recommendation 27,
in UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s report
“The Prevention of Armed Conflict”
(June 2001)

The Global Conference “From Reaction to Prevention: Civil Society Forging Partnerships to Prevent Violent Conflict and Build Peace” is being organised by the *Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict*, in response to Recommendation 27 of the UN Secretary-General’s 2001 report on “The Prevention of Armed Conflict”.

This event, which will bring together approximately 1000 participants from civil society and non-governmental organisations, governments, regional organisations, UN agencies, and academia, is the culmination of a three-year process of global consultation, dialogue and research, driven by the participation of a multitude of stakeholders from all over the world. In fifteen regions worldwide, local and regional actors explored the roles of civil society in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and the potential for interaction with governments, regional organisations, and the UN. This process has led to fifteen Regional Conferences at which Regional Action Agendas were adopted. These Regional Action Agendas will form the basis for the Global Action Agenda, which will be presented to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the Global Conference.

Participation in the Global Conference is by invitation only. The delegates are nominated through regional consultative processes. For more information, please contact the International Secretariat or the regional lead agencies. For contact details go to www.gppac.net.



THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE

Why now?

The Global Conference is taking place at a time in which issues of peace and security, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and the role of civil society are of mounting importance. This is reflected in the reports of the two expert Panels established by the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. *The Panel of Eminent Persons on UN – Civil Society Relations* made the recommendation that the UN play a more strategic convening role and strive to build more inclusive coalitions of interested parties on different issues. *The High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change* highlighted the vital importance of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, by recommending a Deputy Secretary-General for Peace and Security, as well as the establishment of a special Peacebuilding Commission. In September 2005 the Millennium + 5 Summit will take place at the UN, and peace and security will be one of the key topics to be discussed.

Considerable interest has grown in the area of civilian conflict prevention and peacebuilding, including some recognition of the innovative and appropriate channel that civil society offers in addressing localised conflict situations. Civil society partners are a necessary complement to initiatives by governments, regional organisations, and the UN as they bring a number of important qualities for effectively responding to specific cases of conflict.

In general¹:

- Their independence – and, in some cases, their expertise, integrity or moral authority – gives them the freedom to act swiftly and flexibly.
- CSOs often rely on innovative, creative, and non-coercive strategies to persuade people to engage in peaceful processes based on dialogue and deliberation.
- CSOs can act when – for various reasons – official actors are immobilised.
- CSOs can improve communication and relationships by fostering interaction across conflict divides through informal exchanges and joint projects.
- By mobilising ‘people power’, CSOs can put pressure on decision-makers to reach a peaceful settlement.
- CSOs can bear witness to violations in powerful ways that undermine the moral authority and legitimacy of abusers.

“The leaders of both sides may refuse to talk, but ... nothing can stop ordinary people – precisely those who have to face the most crippling consequences of the conflict – from trying to understand each other, which may end up saving lives.”

Representative from the *Hello Peace Project* (“Peace on the Line” by Nick Taylor, *The Guardian*, May 8th, 2004)

¹ This text is taken from “Weaving the Web: Civil Society Roles in Working with Conflict and Building Peace”, by Catherine Barnes, chapter 1 in the forthcoming publication: *People Building Peace II: Successful Stories of Civil Society*.

THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE AIMS TO:

- 1** Adopt a *global and regional policy change agenda* aimed at achieving a shift from reaction to prevention of violent conflict and obtaining initial commitments from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the United Nations, regional bodies, and governments to that effect.
- 2** Develop a *plan for implementing the Global Action Agenda* including:
 - A functional and effective network of local, regional and international civil society to mobilise action for prevention and peacebuilding;
 - Improved interaction between CSOs, the UN and governments;
 - Increased human, institutional and systematic capacities to prevent violent conflict; and
 - Consolidated recognition amongst public constituencies, policymakers and opinion formers of the legitimate role of CSOs in conflict prevention.
- 3** *Increase awareness of the contributions* and highlight the challenges faced by CSOs working towards peacebuilding and prevention in their respective regions and local contexts.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE

Tuesday 19 July 2005 Morning programme

Introducing the Global Action Agenda and highlighting the roles of key actors and challenges in preventing violent conflict

1st Plenary Session: Opening of the Conference
Presentation of the Global Action Agenda to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan; Speech by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Archbishop Desmond Tutu** (South Africa); Presentations of the publication *People Building Peace II: Successful Stories of Civil Society* and Regional Action Agendas from Latin America, Asia, and Africa

Afternoon programme

- Parallel interactive panel discussions
- Workshops
- Working groups

10:00-13:00 1st plenary session
13:00-14:30 lunch
14:30-18:00 interactive panel discussions
workshops
working groups

Wednesday 20 July 2005 Morning programme

Enhancing interaction & strengthening operational mechanisms for prevention and peacebuilding

2nd Plenary Session: Interactive Panel Discussion and presentations by Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, President Xanana Gusmão (East Timor), Oscar Arias (Costa Rica), Shirin Ebadi** (Iran), Wangari Maathai** (Kenya), as well as two representatives from local peace initiatives

Afternoon programme

- Parallel interactive panel discussions
- Workshops
- Working groups

10:00-13:00 2nd plenary session
13:00-14:30 lunch
14:30-18:00 interactive panel discussions
workshops
working groups

** to be confirmed



THE PROGRAMME OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE

Thursday 21 July 2005 Morning programme

- Parallel interactive panel discussions
- Workshops
- Working groups

Afternoon programme

10:00-13:00	interactive panel discussions workshops working groups
13:00-14:30	lunch
14:30-18:00	3rd plenary session

From ideas toward action

3rd Plenary Session: Recommendations for implementation of the Global Action Agenda; Response from governmental representatives (from Latin America, Africa and Asia) and the UN Department for Political Affairs (Kieran Prendergast, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs or Danilo Türk, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs); Closing speech by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Jody Williams (United States - International Campaign to Ban Landmines)

In addition to daily plenary sessions, participants will spend their time between parallel interactive panel discussions (3 per day), workshops (10 per day), and working groups (16 per day). Participants are required to pre-register to attend one of these sessions.

- **Plenary sessions** will focus on the broadest themes related to the Conference and include presentations by keynote speakers such as Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, high UN officials, governmental representatives and leading civil society organisations.
- **Interactive panel discussions** will address overarching themes with the objective of mobilising the 'Shift from Reaction to Prevention', as well as obtaining initial commitments from civil society organisations, the UN,

regional bodies, and governments to that effect. Several interactive panel discussions will have a strong regional focus.

- **Workshops** will focus on increasing awareness of the contributions of civil society organisations in the field of conflict prevention, and highlight the challenges they face in their respective regions and local contexts. The structure of the workshops will vary from informative exchanges, role-plays, training, and Q&A sessions.
- **Working groups** will concentrate on formulating methods for implementing the Global Action Agenda. The working groups will be continuous throughout the Conference and the resulting recommendations will be presented during the third and final plenary session.



From left to right: Eastern & Central Africa conference | National Sorry Day, Australia | Latin America and Caribbean conference

THE PROGRAMME OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE

The key issues to be discussed during these sessions will be derived from the Global Action Agenda, and will include among others: civil society actors in conflict prevention and peacebuilding (i.e. women, youth, religious leaders and the media); the possibilities for increased interaction between civil society, the UN, governments, and regional organisations; the consequences of the war on terror in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding; mechanisms for early warning and early response; human security; conflict resolution and peace education; development and peacebuilding; trauma, dealing with the past and reconciliation; a code of conduct for the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding; dialogue-based peace processes; democracy, good governance and human rights; and funding for the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Broader themes such as ‘Mobilising the Shift to Prevention: How to Respond to New Threats’ and ‘Joint Action toward Common Goals: Coalition Building and Campaigning’ will also be addressed.

The interactive panel discussions will be led by experts in this field including **Gareth Evans** (President, International Crisis Group, Australia), and **David Hamburg** (former Co-Chair of the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, United States).

Many other knowledgeable and eminent persons have likewise agreed to collaborate on workshops, working groups and interactive panel debates, including **Kevin Clements** (Director, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia), **Thelma Ekiyor** (Project Director and Regional Coordinator of WIPNET (Women in Peacebuilding Network Programme), a programme of WANEP (West African Network for Peacebuilding), **John Marks** (Founder and President, Search for Common Ground, United States), **Leekim Hyun Sook** (Co-Founder and Executive Director of Women Making Peace, South Korea), **Norbert Ropers** (Director, Berghof Research Centre for Conflict Studies, Sri Lanka office), **Mari Fitzduff** (Professor and Director of the MA Conflict and Coexistence Programme at Brandeis University, United States), **Edy Kaufman** (Senior Research Associate, Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israël, and Center for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland, College Park, United States), **Rebecca Peters** (Director, International Action Network on Small Arms, United Kingdom), **Dan Smith** (Secretary-General, International Alert, United Kingdom), **Paul van Tongeren** (Executive Director, European Centre for Conflict Prevention, Netherlands) and **Paul Eavis** (Director, Saferworld, United Kingdom).



A TRULY GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

“For prevention strategies to become more effective, all actors – civil society, governments and UN agencies – have to work together. The 2005 Global Conference will present an opportunity to bring together these different actors in an innovative framework and will contribute to maintaining conflict prevention and peacebuilding at the top of the international political agenda.”

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in his letter to Paul van Tongeren, Executive Director of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention, the International Secretariat of the Global Partnership (19 October 2004)



A Truly Global Partnership: Linking the Local through the Regional to the International Levels

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict was formed in response to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict (June 2001) in which he emphasised the need to shift to a culture of prevention and highlighted the important role of civil society. Today the Global Partnership aims to be a truly international network of organisations, researchers, religious leaders, women's groups, educators, and many more, working on all levels for conflict prevention and peace worldwide.

The overall objectives of the Global Partnership are:

- i) To create a paradigm shift from reaction to prevention;
- ii) To increase the effectiveness of conflict prevention efforts;
- iii) To highlight the role of civil society in preventing armed conflict and peacebuilding; and
- iv) To interact with the United Nations and governments to strengthen the international response to preventing armed conflict.

The goals and aspirations of the Global Partnership, for which the European Centre for Conflict Prevention serves as the International Secretariat, are actualised through fifteen regional processes. These processes are facilitated by regional lead agencies who collectively govern and guide the Global Partnership through the International Steering Group. These driving agencies are collaborating closely with the actors of their respective conflict prevention and peacebuilding communities in order to voice their concerns and formulate recommendations in the form of Regional Action Agendas. The overarching themes of these Action Agendas will serve as the foundation for a Global Action Agenda.

The regions involved are: Central & East Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean, North America, South Asia, the Pacific, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, Central Asia, Middle East & North Africa, Western Commonwealth of Independent States, the Caucasus, the Balkans and Northern & Western Europe.



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PREVENTION OF ARMED CONFLICT



The International Secretariat of the Global Partnership, the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP), is an independent NGO based in the Netherlands that promotes effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategies, and actively supports and connects people working for peace worldwide. The ECCP serves as an information point, a network organisation, and an advocate for the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding in general.

SUPPORT

Thus far twelve governments support the programme: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, Spain. A number of NGOs and institutions also support the programme: NCDO, World Vision, Cordaid and Novib/Oxfam the Netherlands, Boll Foundation, IFOR, IDCR and FES. Many other organisations are supporting the Global Partnership through the regional processes.



Regional Initiators

- Nairobi Peace Initiative-Africa
- The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
- West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
- Regional Coordination for Economic & Social Research, Argentina
- Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee
- Interaction, USA
- Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka
- Citizen's Constitutional Forum, Fiji
- Initiatives for International Dialogue, Philippines
- Peace Boat, Japan
- Foundation for Tolerance International, Kyrgyzstan
- Nonviolence International, Russia
- International Center on Conflict & Negotiation, Georgia
- Nansen Network in the Balkans
- European Centre for Conflict Prevention

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.GPPAC.NET

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