



CONGO e-Update • 15 March 2008

The CONGO e-update is produced by staff in New York, Geneva and Vienna, with contributions from members and affiliated partners.

7th Session Human Rights Council – 3-28 March, Geneva

Ø *NGO Strategic Meeting 7th session of the HRC - 16 March, Geneva*

The Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations and the Special Committee of NGOs on Human Rights have the pleasure to invite all interested NGOs to a **one-day strategic meeting** taking place in conjunction with the 7th HRC Session. The meeting open to all NGOs accredited to the 7th session of the Human Rights Council will take place on 16 March at the Maison des Associations. Building upon the experience of a previous similar event, the purpose of this meeting is to create an opportunity for NGO representatives to have an exchange on their objectives and advocacy strategies on issues to be addressed during the Human Rights Council session. This strategic meeting is also intended to help identify like-minded partners and opportunities for voluntary collaboration and to encourage efforts leading towards more joint initiatives, contributions and statements. See here [programme](#), [invited speakers](#) and [MORE](#)

Ø *NGOIC Calendar and Side-Events Flyers*

We have the pleasure to inform you that the [NGOIC's calendar of parallel events](#) is now operational, providing useful insights of meetings held during the Council to all interested NGOs. The NGOIC ([NGO Information and Cooperation](#)) is a free-service web-based mechanism for information-sharing and cooperation among NGOs with a view to improving and facilitating NGO participation in the newly created United Nations Human Rights Council. It is an initiative of the Geneva NGO Special Committee of Human Rights hosted by the [CONGO](#) and supported by [Korea Center for United Nations Human Rights Policy \(KOCUN\)](#). Should you wish to have your parallel event promoted through NGOIC and made available to all interested NGOs, you are kindly invited to send your flyers to humanrights@ngocongo.org.

ICC Prosecutor to Launch International Justice Center in Second Life – 20 March, NY

On March 20, at 3pm EST, International Criminal Court Prosecutor [Luis Moreno-Ocampo](#) will give a short welcome address to officially inaugurate the [Global Kids' International Justice Center](#) in the virtual world of Second Life. The International Justice Center is an independent public information and action clearinghouse focusing on the ICC and related human rights concerns. After his address, the ICC prosecutor will answer questions from the virtual audience, facilitated by Global Kids' staff. The Center will be also video streaming a panel discussion and keynote address on "The Emerging International Justice System" taking place in New York City. The event begins with a live panel discussion from 4:30-6pm with several major human rights officials. To conclude the event, former UN Secretary General

Kofi Annan will deliver a keynote address at 9pm. The ICC prosecutor's address and the video streamed events will be accessible [online](#).

International Day against Racial Discrimination – 21 March

In support to the campaign on the occasion of the International Day against Racial Discrimination to be commemorated on 21 March 2008 – under the UDHR 60 umbrella - OHCHR is encouraging you to use the 21 March Posters ([English](#), [Français](#)) to serve as reference for your individual plans. [Do you know your rights?](#)
See **MOPE**

NGOs / CSOs participation 11th CSTD – 1 April

In order to facilitate the participation of representatives from NGOs and civil society entities from developing countries and countries with economies in transition at the [11th Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development](#), to be held 26-30 May 2008 in Geneva, the Secretariat of the Commission is pleased to announce that a Swiss Trust Fund allows for the invitation of a **limited number of participants** from NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC or from civil society entities that were accredited to the World Summit on the Information Society. The nominations are to be submitted to the CSTD Secretariat no later than 1 April 2008. See here the [selection process and selection criteria](#) and the [nomination form](#).

UNCTAD XII Civil Society Forum - 17-19 April, Accra, Ghana

The [Civil Society Forum](#) to take place 17-19 April just before [UNCTAD XII](#), will provide an open space for [NGOs /CSOs to hold events](#) and to facilitate the issue of the [CS statement](#) to be delivered at the opening plenary of the main conference. Hosted by the Third World Network (TWN)-Africa the secretariat for the organization of the civil society forum is also working with UNCTAD on civil society participation at UNCTAD XII. For any inquires relating to the forum and/or if you are interested in holding a side event, please contact directly Kathleene Boohene at unctadxii-csoforum@twnafrica.org. Read [more information](#) on the CONGO website [here](#).

Campaigns and Initiatives

Decent Work Decent Life Campaign
<http://www.decentwork.org>

Global Campaign Against Poverty
www.whiteband.org

NGO Resources

Publishing your work at the United Nations
<http://www.ngocongo.org/index.php?what=committees&id=12&start=4>

NGO Law and Governance - 100 Tips & 100 Tools for Better Governed NGOs
<http://www.adbi.org/book/2007/12/26/2356.100.tips.100.tools.ngo.resource.book>

Other events

7 April: World Health Day

<http://www.who.int/world-health-day/en/index.html>

10-13 April 2008: WB & IMF Policy Dialogues for Civil Society Organizations, Washington D.C.

<http://www.imf.org/external/spring/2008/index.htm>

10-14 March 2008: 51st Session Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/51.html>

24 April 2008: Linguistic Rights in the World: A Symposium to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 100th Anniversary of the Universal Esperanto Association (UEA)
<http://tinyurl.com/ytqqpx>

25-26 March 2008: United Nations Meets Web 2.0, New York
<http://www.un-gaid.org/fr/node/1347>

26-28 March 2008: UNDP 6th Forum of the World Alliance of Cities against Poverty (WACAP), Athens, Greece
http://mirror.undp.org/switzerland/wacap/en/forum_athens/index.htm

7-18 April 2008 & 5-16 May 2008: Human Rights Council, 1st & 2nd sessions of the WG on the Universal Periodic Review, Geneva
[List of the 16 Countries to be reviewed during this session](#)

16-18 April: 8th Info-poverty World Conference, New York
<http://www.infopoverty.net>

20-25 April 2008: Twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Accra, Ghana
<http://www.unctadxii.org>

21 April – 2 May 2008: Substantive session of the Preparatory Committee on the Durban Review Conference, Geneva Download the [questionnaire for accreditation](#) of new NGOs to the Durban Review Conference and its preparatory process.
http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep_committee_durban

19-23 May 2008: 61st World Health Assembly, Geneva
<http://www.who.int/governance/calendar/2008/en/index.html>

25-28 May 2008: Geneva Health Forum, Geneva
<http://genevahealthforum.org>

10-11 June 2008: UNGA High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, New York
<http://www.un-ngls.org/un aids/en>

17-23 August 2008: World Water Week, Stockholm, Sweden
<http://www.worldwaterweek.org>

3-5 September 2008: 61st NGO/DPI Conference, Paris
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/index.asp>

The CONGO e-news is a weekly email information service of the Conference of NGOs, informing members and affiliated networks of relevant upcoming events sponsored by the United Nations, CONGO, CONGO Members and its affiliated committees and task forces, and other major civil society-related initiatives. Subscription to the e-news list is generally restricted to the UN offices and headquarters of members of the Conference of NGOs. For more information or to submit an event, please send a message to adina.fulgaradi@ngocongo.org, at least three weeks prior to the event. To unsubscribe please send an email to congo@ngocongo.org.

Adina Fulga Radi
Communications

Conference of NGOs (CONGO)
11, Avenue de la Paix • CH-1202 Geneva • Switzerland
T: +41 22 301 1000 • F: +41 22 301 2000 • W: <http://www.ngocongo.org>

The Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations is an international membership association that facilitates the participation of NGOs in United Nations debates and decisions. Founded in 1948, CONGO's major objective is to ensure the presence of NGOs in exchanges among the world's governments and United Nations agencies on issues of global concern.