

60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

5-7 September 2007
United Nations, New York



HOW IT **IMPACTS** US ALL **FINAL REPORT**

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CLIMATE CHANGE: HOW IT **IMPACTS** US ALL **FINAL REPORT**

Organised by the United Nations Department of Public Information
in partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee

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IN MEMORIAM

Virginia Hazzard

1918-2005



NGO Representative to the United Nations of the
Association of Former International Civil Servants
Chair of the Multigenerational Sub-Committee



Dear NGO friends,

A year ago – when you selected the topic for this year’s Conference – we could not fully anticipate the significance and wisdom of your choice.

By the time our September event got underway, the words “Climate Change” became ubiquitous among the general public. Every day, hundreds of news stories reported the subject in the world’s media. Heated discussions by proponents and detractors influenced political agendas and government plans. Likewise, by then, a sizeable portion of the world’s population had already experienced first hand the negative effects of global warming.

Between December 2006 and September 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) produced and unveiled 3 major reports, leading up to this month’s Fourth Assessment Report, released in Valencia, Spain.

Immediately after our Conference, in an unprecedented move, the Secretary-General convened a High Level meeting to discuss Climate Change and the challenge it presents to the leadership of the world.

In October, we rejoiced upon learning of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize awarded jointly to the IPCC and Former US Vice-President Al Gore. According to the Nobel Committee, the award was for “efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change.”

And early next month, from 3-14 December, this year’s Climate Change calendar of activities culminates in Bali, Indonesia, with the United Nations’ Climate Change Conference.

Among other achievements, our DPI/NGO Conference produced a Final Declaration – a first – which was delivered to the Secretary-General and other senior UN authorities. In it, you outlined your concerns and aspirations as well as the role we must play to reverse, mitigate, and prevent further damage to our planet.

This Final Report of the 2007 DPI/NGO Conference will remind you of your stated commitment and will help you recreate those moments that made it so special.

On behalf of all my UN colleagues – without whom this effort would not have been possible – I wish you a happy holiday season. May the new year bring us all, health and peace.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JCB', is positioned above the name of the signatory.

Juan-Carlos Brandt

Chief, NGO Section

New York, November 2007



Richard Jordan

Letter from the Chairman of the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

As Chairman of the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, hosted by the United Nations Department of Public Information, I am honoured to sign my name to this final report about the speakers, the plenary sessions and roundtables, the workshops and the enthusiastic participants of this memorable event. It was a personal pleasure and privilege to have worked with Under-Secretary-General Kiyoko Akasaka and his team most cordially headed by Juan Carlos Brandt, Chief of the NGO Section, and all of the dedicated DPI staff, volunteers and interns. Their commitment, as well as the dedication throughout ten months of preparations by my NGO colleagues, produced the results that we had envisioned. So many opportunities to realise new relationships and valued partnerships through the Declaration adopted by consensus at the Conference's closing session lie ahead of us. I wish to thank the NGO/DPI Executive Committee for affording me a unique way to understand the UN system that I will use every day that I walk into the United Nations. A better world for all, an energised UN, a vibrant NGO community is my hope for the future.

Richard Jordan

Chair of the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference
Co-Chair of the Conference Planning Committee

Conference Overview

The 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, entitled *Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All*, organised by the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) in collaboration with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee was held from 5 to 7 September 2007 at United Nations Headquarters. The three-day event, comprising two plenary sessions, seven roundtables and thirty-four midday workshops was attended by over 1700 representatives from 469 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), affiliated with the DPI and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), representing 62 nations. The Conference provided participants the opportunity to consult with United Nations officials, government representatives, the private sector, as well as experts in the field, to develop individual and collective adaptation and mitigation plans within their communities.

The Conference opened with United Nations welcoming remarks delivered by Mr. Kiyoo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information and was followed by a host city message from Ms. Marjorie Tiven, Commissioner of the Commission for the United Nations, Consular Corps and Protocol [New York City]. HE Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations provided the opening address on behalf United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Ms. Migiro stressed the urgency of the environmental challenge and noted steps were being taken to make the United Nations a carbon neutral zone. The outgoing 61th General Assembly President, HE Ms. Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, also addressed the NGO community outlining the need for the United Nations to maintain its strong ties with civil society to successfully achieve its organisational objectives. The appropriateness of the Conference theme was further affirmed by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme,

who referred to climate change as the most serious threat humanity had ever encountered. During his key note address Mr. Steiner told participants that this was an opportunity to negotiate and engage in programmes, which could balance economic growth and environmental sustainability.

The plenary and roundtable sessions extensively reviewed the latest scientific evidence of climate change proposed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) including its consequences on ecosystems, water security, development, indigenous peoples, land use, natural resources and the politics of energy. Additionally, the



Over 1700 NGO representatives from 62 nations attended the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

midday workshops dealt with more specific aspects of environmental degradation, including nuclear energy sources, geo-engineering, and the consequences of global warming on children. Panellists at the Conference collectively voiced the need for both individual and collaborative efforts to tackle the challenges of climate change and offered tangible ideas for solutions. In addition, the discussions stressed the need for mitigation and adaptation measures to ensure efficiency and reduce vulnerability to the effects of global warming. Panellists also highlighted the immediate need for resources to improve capacities of developing countries in areas of research, technological innovation and early warning systems. Furthermore, access to high quality information and knowledge sharing were deemed crucial to establish standard reporting mechanisms in the process of carbon reduction and create regulatory policies to ensure security of natural resources and sustainable development.

During the closing session, four United Nations International School (UNIS) students presented the summaries of all interactive roundtables previously prepared by interns at the NGO section and students from various universities. This highlighted the vitality of youth participation and leadership in dealing with the issues of climate change. This session also featured Mr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and co-winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. In his end-note address, Mr. Pachauri explained the various impacts of global warming, ranging from increases in extreme weather events to water scarcity and its threat to global food security. Mr. Richard Jordan, Chair, 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference provided the NGO closing remarks complimenting the Planning Committee and DPI staff, whose tireless work ensured the success of the Conference. Award winning journalist and poet, Mr. Rolland Smith, closed the Conference with a moment of reflection by reading a selection of original poems crafted specially for the event.

Key Conference Outcomes

Taking advantage of the Conference's time proximity to the high-level meeting on climate change in New York and the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, the NGO community for the first time in sixty years, produced a Conference Declaration. Initially drafted by the Networking Sub-Committee, the declaration was made available on the Conference website, where participants could deliberate on its contents and make the necessary amendments. Through this declaration the NGO community committed themselves, over the next 12 months to develop a framework comprising both individual and collective action plans to combat issues of climate change. They also reiterated their pledge to be active partners of the United Nations, local governments and civil society to implement adaptation and mitigation strategies. The Conference declaration was subsequently presented to the Secretary-General through Mr. Kiyoo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General of Communications and Public Information.

Additionally, the Multigenerational Sub-Committee directed by Mary Pennisi and Virginia Hazzard, created a Youth Education Outreach Initiative aimed at fostering interactive and informative discussions in global educational settings. In consultation with educators, a group of the subcommittee's youth members devised educational activities for young children and a list of recommended practices to increase their awareness and understanding about climate change. Published on the Conference website, the activities addressed the scientific, social, and political dimensions of climate change, introducing photosynthesis, global warming, sustainable lifestyles, and the importance of advocacy and international cooperation. NGOs were encouraged to disseminate and incorporate the activities into their educational programs after the Conference. The Subcommittee further presented the activities to UNESCO and UNICEF.

Public Outreach Initiatives

In an effort to maximise public awareness, the NGO section in collaboration with the Internet Subcommittee and the Graphic Design Unit developed a dedicated interactive website, www.undpingoconference.org. The 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference site was designed to create a global forum to ensure the widest possible exchange of views and experiences. It featured a detailed conference programme (including Arabic and French translations) and midday workshops details, special events, speakers' information, youth initiatives, as well as live and archived webcasts of all the sessions. The website was continually updated with subsequent conference outcomes and post-conference public discussions via the 'Forum' page. More information about the Conference website could be found in Annex I section of the Final Report.

The NGO Section prepared two separate media advisories providing information on media arrangements, webcast services, and grounds-passes for participants as well as other information surrounding the DPI/NGO pre-conference briefing held on 30 May 2007. Both advisories were issued in English and French by the Meetings

Coverage Section of the News and Media Division, DPI. For more information on media outreach, please refer to Annex I section of the Final Report.

A team of faculty and students of the Art Centre College of Design in Pasadena, California, produced four Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to support the efforts of the United Nations and the NGO community in addressing the issues of climate change and its dire impact. Under the titles, *The G.G. Meeting*, *Moving Day*, *Apathy*, and *Blowing Smoke*, these pieces intended to mobilise a wide spectrum of viewers into taking individual and collaborative responsibilities in crafting a sustainable environment. Created especially for this event, the PSA's were premiered throughout the Conference.

In another first, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee published a journal entitled *Celebrating NGOs: 60 Years with the United Nations: the Journey Continues*, marking the long standing partnership between the Department of Public Information (DPI) and the NGO community. While galvanising public attention to the most pressing issues of climate change through various articles, the journal compiled a multitude of tributes. Organisers of the journal received messages from HE Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, HE Ms. Laura Bush, First Lady of United States, Mr. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York, and Professor Wangari Maathai, the 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate.

The Multigenerational Sub-Committee of the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference produced a video documentary entitled *United Differences: Family Impacts on Climate Change*. Led by Mr. Jun Ren, an independent film director, the team explored roles of families representing five continents in preventing climate change. The project was supported by a family photo album, *Say No to the Shadow of Earth*. A six-minute version of the video plus selected photographs from the album was presented to participants at United Nations Headquarters throughout the conference.

Furthermore, the Multigenerational Sub-Committee under the direction of Virginia Hazzard and Mary Pennisi, developed a Youth Education Outreach Initiative aimed to promote interactive and informative discussions to increase awareness among students around the world. It further sought to encourage advocacy among youth, and to proliferate the belief that individual daily actions could make a meaningful difference and effectuate change. In consultation with educators Samantha Lu of Columbia University and Kelly Roberts of Fordham University, a group of the subcommittee's youth members, including Benelita Tina Elie, Mary Pennisi, and Christina Verdirame, devised educational activities for young children and a list of recommended practices to promote greener living among high school students. Published

on the Conference website, the activities addressed the scientific, social, and political dimensions of climate change, introducing photosynthesis, global warming, sustainable lifestyles, and the importance of advocacy and international cooperation. NGOs were encouraged to disseminate and incorporate the activities into their educational programs after the Conference.

Another innovative project under the title, *Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet*, employed public art as a medium to create awareness and provoke discussion among individuals and organisations about climate change. A few selections from 125 globes decorated with potential solutions to global warming, remained on display in Conference Rooms 1 and 4 until 6 September 2007. A pictorial guide-



Sample Globes from the Cool Globes Initiative were on display during the Conference

book on the project was also distributed throughout the three day event. In addition, a short film on this initiative was screened for participants during the lunch break in Studio 4 throughout the Conference.

Included in this report is a DVD-ROM containing all the archived webcasts of the Conference, a multimedia loop containing the PSAs, a short film on cool globes, as well as the six-minute version of the film produced by the

Multigenerational Sub-Committee. This was made possible by the Radio and Television Production Section as well as the Webcast Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information.

The '*What Moves You?*' travelling exhibition created further public consciousness by featuring in depth portrayals of unique individuals, who dedicated their efforts and expertise to help realise the goals of the United Nations. Aimed at educating and involving people in global social issues, the project organisers conducted interviews and photographic portrait sessions during the Conference.

At the end of the 60th DPI/NGO Annual Conference, 355 participants completed a questionnaire prepared by the NGO Section, representing a response rate of 20%, similar to the response rate of previous years. The majority of participants expressed satisfaction with the organisation of the Conference and some remarked on improvements made from past years. In general, the Conference received positive evaluations in regards to discussion topics, speakers' selection, as well as the opportunity to gather and interact to address issues of concern. An improvement over the years had been noticed regarding the usefulness of certain aspects of the Conference, such as *having access to UN literature* and *identifying practical solutions to common problems*. An average of 86% awarded 'useful' ratings for the plenary and roundtables sessions; with an average level of usefulness of 1.6 (where 1='very useful' and 5='not useful at all'). The Conference hosted 34 midday workshops representing an increase from 30 workshops last year. In addition, the survey revealed some concerns regarding the number of NGO participants from developing countries. Respondents also praised the increased participation of indigenous peoples and youth representatives. For more information on DPI/NGO Conference survey, please refer to the Annex II section of the Final Report.

Additional Events

The Midday Workshops Sub-Committee of the Conference Planning Committee coordinated 34 midday workshops during the three-day event; an increase of 4 workshops from last year. Conference participants were able to choose from a variety of topics, such as *Youth Education and Climate Change*, and *The Impact of Climate Change on Migrants: Current Issues and Future Challenges*. The Midday Workshops Subcommittee also organised *College/University Students Poster Presentations*, which were displayed throughout the Conference. Reflecting on the themes of the workshops, the presentations highlighted an active youth contribution in the areas of climate change and provided a unique opportunity for developing student networks that could be sustained beyond the Conference.

On 5 September, Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, wife of the UN Secretary-General, hosted a luncheon at the West Terrace of the Delegates' Dining Room to honour Conference speakers. HE Asha Rose-Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kiyoo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General, Communication and Public Information, Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme and Mr. Raymond Sommereyns, Director, Outreach Division, DPI were also among the guests.

The NGO/DPI Executive Committee hosted a Conference reception at the Delegates' Dining Room on 5 September; the evening of the Conference opening. The Turtle Bay Music School, featuring Pianist Bob Rodriguez, Guitarist Scott Sherwood, and Bassist Steve LaSpina entertained more than 750 Conference participants, speakers, and other guests at the reception, including United Nations officials, members of Permanent Missions, and media representatives.

The exhibition of the Sixteenth International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment, jointly sponsored by the United Nations Environmental Programme, the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment, Bayer, and Nikon Corporation, opened on 5 September 2007 at the United Nations Headquarters. The exhibit, featuring 62 winning paintings selected from 14,000 entries by children aged between 6 to 14 years, was inaugurated by HE Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Mr. John Scanlon, Senior Policy Advisor to the Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme. The winning paintings were also developed into posters and made available for Conference participants.



Robin Della Rocca, David Kistner, Kevin Wall and Zenawit T. Melesse

A tribute honouring effective partners that contributed to the *Live Earth Initiatives* was held at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium on 6 September 2007. The screening of four short films was followed by an NGO award ceremony recognising Kevin Wall, Co-creator of Live Earth, Kit Hawkins from SOS Live Earth Short Films Programme, and Oscar nominated film maker Amy Berg, for their significant efforts in the field. Mr. Juan Carlos Brant, Chief of the NGO Section, DPI provided welcoming remarks and Ms. Aubrey O'Day, singer from the pop group *Danity Kane* addressed the participants. Model and designers Greta Tavazzoni and Petra Granata also attended the event to show their support to the initiative. Organised by Suzanne Engo, President of the Girl Behind the Camera Productions and sponsored by a local green

company, Green Apple Cleaners, the event promoted further environmental messages, such as catering with local food products in order to reduce carbon emissions.

The NGO Section assisted in organising a book signing event on 6 September 2007 at the United Nations Bookshop. Mr. Andrew Revkin, an environment reporter for the New York Times and author of *The North Pole Was Here: Puzzles and Perils at the Top of the World*, met with Conference participants during the occasion. Mr. Revkin incidentally was the moderator of one of the roundtable sessions.

Parallel Events

On 28 September 2007, the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow organised a tea party, aimed at sustaining the impetus generated by the DPI/NGO Conference, as well as highlighting the challenge of climate change. Mr. Alexei Kokorin, Coordinator, Russian Climate Change Programme, World Wildlife Foundation, and DPI/NGO Conference speaker was the featured guest at the briefing that was attended by about 20 NGO representatives. Mr. Kokorin shared his impressions of the Conference with representatives of local NGOs and other climate experts. He explained the importance of the Arctic ecosystem, which if forced out of balance, could have a severe impact on weather patterns all over the world. His remarks were followed by a question and answer period.

The United Nations Information Centre in Lima, Peru, the Municipality of Lima and the National Council on Environmental Issues (CONAM) organised a four-day Conference from 10 – 13 September on climate change. The event opened with a pre-recorded video message from Mr. Richard Jordan, Chair, 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference and Mr. Juan Carlos Brandt, Chief, NGO Section. The Conference declaration along with speeches from the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference was translated into Spanish and was distributed to the participating Mayors. Additionally, the Lima Conference was aired on regional television (UHF - Lima) and webcasts were made available on the internet. Mr. Jorge Marquez, Coordinator of the event, created a blog for further discussions on <http://jorgemarquezch.blogspot.com/>. The website received more than five hundred hits over four days in addition to the many viewers that watched on television. As a follow-up to this event, the Secretary of National Youth and the Pacific Group of Communications was expected to organise a musical festival for youth in December, to reiterate their role in addressing environmental issues.

The Association Communication et Information pour le Développement Durable (ACIDD) [Summer University on Communication for Sustainable Development], in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Information Centre,

Brussels (UNRIC) organised a seminar on 6 and 7 September 2007, in Buoux, France. The two-day event featured an interactive video-conference with participants of the DPI/NGO Conference during the roundtable session entitled *Water Security and Climate Change*. This event brought together over 200 representatives of NGOs, government, private sector and academia to discuss environmental issues and create durable development initiatives.

On 24 August 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and the United Nations Information Centre in Mexico organised a forum entitled *Society and Climate Change*. The forum, attended by over 100 members of civil society and representatives of the Federal Government of Mexico highlighted the country's responsibility in combating climate change and mobilising public opinion. Featured speakers included, Melba Pria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Fernando Tudela, Under-Secretary of Environmental Policy, SEMARNAT.

From 12-13 July 2007, Le réseau Droits Humains au Sénégal (REDHUS) (The Human Rights Networks in Senegal) held its 10th annual preparatory conference to the DPI/NGO Conference. The event aimed at preparing participating Senegalese NGO at the DPI/NGO Conference in New York. The preparatory conference featured a number of roundtable discussions chaired by NGOs, local communities, governmental representatives, an eminent specialists on the effects of climate change on traditional cultivation practices, water and sanitation, energy resources, as well as on the way forward to address these challenges in Senegal. In this context, the discussions focused on lessons learned from practices adopted in other countries, on the impact of climate change on the agricultural sector in the country, and resulted in the adoption of practical recommendations to be submitted for discussion at the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference.

Summary of Plenary and Roundtable Presentations

Conference Opening Session

Wednesday, 5 September 2007

Opening Session

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

General Assembly Hall

KIYO AKASAKA, Under-Secretary-General, Communications and Public Information, opened by stressing the appropriateness of this year's conference, as the Secretary-General had identified climate change as one of the most pressing problems of our time. He said its theme, 'Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All' would enable all participants to assess their activities, which influenced the environment, while addressing the need for action to adapt and alter the predicted outcome. Mr. Akasaka emphasised the importance of sustaining the valuable partnership between the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organisations, so together, they could continue to incorporate the multiple voices and expertise needed to tackle the vital issues of global warming. He commented on key United Nations events, such as the high-level meeting organised by the Secretary-General on 24 September 2007 and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali during December. He believed these dialogues would contribute to the ongoing individual and collective efforts being made to minimise the damage. Furthermore, he urged all attendees of the DPI/NGO Conference to become active participants by asking questions, making critical comments, and building partnerships that could make a difference.



Marjorie Tiven

MARJORIE TIVEN, Commissioner, Commission for the United Nations, Consular Corps and Protocol (UNCCP), said climate change was a global issue that had been neglected until now. There had been a steady increase in the number of residents and tourists in New York and the city had witnessed the lowest unemployment rate at any time in its history. It was estimated that by 2020 there would be one million more people living in New York City and if this growth was not actively monitored it could inflict massive strain on municipal infrastructure, the mobility of its population and, most importantly, the physical environment. In terms of its carbon footprint, New York was one of the most environmentally sound cities as a majority of its residents commuted using public transport or walking. Business centres were

found within short distances and apartments were compact. Ms. Tiven noted that the city had begun gearing towards more environmentally sustainable programmes to support its rapid urban development. For example, in December 2006, Mayor Michael Bloomberg convened scientists, advocates, politicians, businesses and civil society to create the 'Plan YC' initiative focusing on five key points of global warming; air, land, water, energy and mass transportation. This scheme, she announced, comprising of 127 different initiatives, was expected to reduce the number of motor vehicles, restore trees and build cleaner power plants, thereby reducing New York's carbon emissions by 30% in year 2030. She added that there was no single solution to the challenge of global warming and the city's successful plans can only thrive as part of a global effort. Therefore, all must share their knowledge, expertise and a positive spirit in order to pass on a cleaner, healthier and greener earth to the next generation.

"The impact of climate change will be irreversible, leaving coastal cities such as New York especially vulnerable. We are working hard on the greening of our city to protect the next generation from disastrous changes to our planet." Marjorie Tiven

ASHA-ROSE MIGIRO, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations, stressed the significant attendance of NGOs and civil society representatives reaffirmed their role in critical issues, from peace and security to basic humanitarian assistance. The United Nations depended on the work of civil society at the grassroots level as well as their skills in mobilising public opinion, advocacy mechanisms and information dissemination. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) established the gravity of global warming and the direct influence of human activity on its impacts. Some of the consequences included the melting of the Arctic ice caps, jeopardised livelihoods and fragile ecosystems, and the rising sea levels threatened low-lying islands and coastal populations. Ms. Migiro highlighted increased desertification, food insecurity and water shortages threatened one-third of the world's population living in arid zones, such as Africa. Efforts to combat those serious challenges of climate change would not be trouble-free; however, any difficulties incurred would be outweighed by the cost of doing nothing. The Conference offered great opportunities to re-assess how we lived and responded to our environment. She added the magnitude of this challenge called for a global effort, requiring governments, private sectors and civil society to work together for comprehensive and sustainable results. Ms. Migiro said the European Union had set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20-30%, with developing countries like Brazil joining forces to reduce deforestation in the Amazon. Furthermore, the United Nations was increasing its efforts to start the fight at home by making the organisation a 'carbon neutral' and energy efficient environment. She noted, the Secretary-General would be organising a high-level meeting in September and through extensive consultation with political figures, civil society representatives and corporations, he hoped to steer a sound political movement for the upcoming United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Bali. Ms. Migiro emphasised such initiatives at all levels, whether adaptation, policy making, mitigation or resource mobilisation, could only meet their objectives through sustained and broad-based engagement.

"...combating climate change presents an opportunity to break with the past, to look anew at the way we operate, the way we do business and the way we relate to each other, now and in the future." Asha-Rose Migiro

SHAIKHA HAYA RASHED AL KHALIFA, President of the Sixty-first Session of General Assembly, United Nations, explained the ubiquitous nature of climate change; a threat with no geographical boundaries. As the world became more



Asha-Rose Migiro, Shaikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa and Kiyo Akasaka

interconnected by the emergence of information technologies and globalisation, it provided us with an immense opportunity to craft a collaborative global response. We continually witnessed the devastating effects of climate change and responded accordingly. Nevertheless, our efforts must extend further than basic relief schemes, with the encouragement of environmental protection and conservation. Civil society needed to take the lead in developing pioneer mechanisms from the lowest lev-

els to promote awareness and community empowerment. Fundamental change could only succeed by employing local communities in identifying solutions appropriate to specific situations. Ms. Al Khalifa underlined climate

change had dire consequences on developing countries by destabilising economic growth, hence, the developed countries need to shoulder the responsibility to maintain the equilibrium between their own economic growth and ensuring a safer environment for all. Sustainable development could not be achieved in the absence of a healthy environment; therefore, significant investments must be made to implement energy-efficient alternatives and to promote their adaptation. She noted technical and scientific expertise was already in place and the only missing link was a global consensus; for all to benefit from this knowledge. There was a requirement for an urgent and undoubted commitment by Member States, the United Nations and all elements within society, she said. The sixty-year partnership between Non-Governmental Organisations and the United Nations had grown in size and diversity, increasing opportunities to tackle the intensified challenges. Additionally, Ms. Al Khalifa said it was essential for the United Nations to maintain those strong ties, based on respect, in order to effectively execute its mandates.

"We have a moral imperative to act. Preserving our environment is a responsibility that we all share – rich and poor, developed and developing nations." Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa



Joan Kirby

JOAN KIRBY, Chair, NGO/DPI Executive Committee, began by emphasising that the Conference was designed to facilitate interactive discussions that would enable participants to formulate concrete action plans for improving the environment. Political leaders and the corporate world had just begun to respond to the challenges of climate change; however, there was still a need to curb excessive greenhouse gas emissions produced by developed countries. Global warming caused chaotic situations, such as drought and floods, especially in poorer countries, which were unable to cope effectively with such incidents. For example, farmers in South Africa were forced to sell their cattle due to unreliable rainfall and their Vietnamese counterparts were obliged to plant mangroves along coastal areas to disperse tropical storms. Moving towards the work of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, Ms. Kirby announced that, in conjunction with

the Conference, the committee would hold its annual Open Forum to discuss existing and new initiatives. She also noted that the Committee recently supported a students' outreach scheme to recruit new NGOs in Costa Rica and the six United Nations regional representatives, appointed last year, were developing various programmes to cultivate a far reaching network.

"The worst part is that there is a deep injustice in the impacts of climate change. Rich countries have grown richer even as decades of greenhouse-gas emissions have caused the problem. And poor countries will be the worst affected, facing greater droughts, floods, hunger and disease." Joan Kirby

RENATE BLOEM, President, Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), said as we went through terrifying episodes of floods, hurricanes and ecological disasters, this year's theme could not be more appropriate. The good news was that both civil society and governments had begun to grasp those intensified hazards as direct results of our activities, announced Ms. Bloem. We must feel responsible for every death and incidence of damage caused by tsunamis, earthquakes or water shortages. She said we needed to act urgently and some countries had already set goals to reduce their carbon emissions by 40% by 2020. Nonetheless, vulnerable societies needed Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and civil society to exert even greater pressure to reverse or, at least, slow the momentum of global warming and minimise its devastating results.

According to Ms. Bloem, one of the most significant examples of NGO involvement in environmental matters was the Aarhus Convention, adopted in 1998. The Convention established the notion, any development, including safe environments could only be achieved through collaborative work, which absorbed public opinion in the decision-making process. She said although the Convention was currently limited to member states of the UN and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) as well as states having consultative status with the ECE, it was the first international document that defined environmental rights as human rights. As such, she highly recommended other regions and NGOs around the globe incorporate the fundamentals of the Convention into their directives to secure more successful results.

"Citizens have a human right to a healthy environment, but in order to exert it they must be granted other human rights: the right to information, to public participation in decision-making and access to justice."

Renate Bloem

RICHARD JORDAN, Chair, 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, said climate change should not be viewed in isolation from issues such as education, human rights and health. Environmental degradation equally made rural development for the majority of the population inconceivable. With that in mind, he urged participants to spend the next three days deliberating on the reasons for the lack of definitive progress, as well as the discussion of individual or collective action plans, which could be taken forward to overcome this serious challenge. Mr. Jordan announced that for the first time in sixty years the Conference was expected to produce a declaration, which would be presented to the Secretary-General for his consideration. He added the draft declaration document was made available to participants and requested them to make suggestions for its refinement so consensus could be reached. Mr. Jordan reminded the audience that global warming had started its perilous journey and NGOs, in alliance with the United Nations and the international community, had a duty to impede its progress and avoid catastrophe.



Achim Steiner

ACHIM STEINER, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, said climate change and its impact had bound us together, whether rich or poor; agriculturist or businessman; small islands or large landlocked nations. No one escaped its consequences and the risks could only be minimised if everyone joined forces. He pointed out that if we looked at the work of the United Nations; climate change affected its efforts in rural development, health care and poverty reduction. Therefore, any progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was threatened by environmental degradation. The far-reaching nature of climate change had begun to transform our debates and started to bridge the intellectual gap between ecologists, economists and environmentalists. It was also crucial that everyone understood that economic growth need not contradict sustainable development and must not be attained at the

expense of the poor. Mr. Steiner said there was enough evidence that sea level rises threatened almost one-third of Africa's coastal infrastructure; something we simply could not afford to lose. The IPCC report disputed the notion that the climate change issue was too costly to address and illustrated a sustainable environment was within our reach if we committed 0.1% of our global GDP over the next thirty years. Obviously, all nations could not pledge the same amount but the cost of mitigation had equal affects, said Mr. Steiner. We simply could not argue that European countries faced the same challenges as Kenya; hence we ought to find a rational way to make the necessary transitions. He also underlined that adapting a 'low-carbon' economy stretched beyond economic benefits because pollution posed other dire risks to human health and security. Despite its efforts to elevate the problem, as the fastest developing country, China remained the prime example of the severe price being paid for economic

prosperity. The international community must seize every possible opportunity to engage in programmes that could balance growth and minimise environmental damages. This could be achieved through long-term development planning, accountability and political commitment. For example, Germany moved from being an insignificant player in the renewable energy sector to a leading wind power electricity producer in just over eight years. Denmark's gross domestic product grew by more than 70% over the last 25 years without increasing its use of electricity and most impressively Brazil implemented one of the cleanest electricity matrixes of our time. Going back to the work of the United Nations, Mr. Steiner said despite severe criticisms the organisation had finally found a way to bring climate change to the top of the intergovernmental agenda through the IPCC, and formulated the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The only requirement was urgent global action.

“Climate change is a fundamental challenge to notions of global equity, inter-generational equity and equity between the rich and poor. It questions the premise upon which some of our societies have built their social and political models over the centuries.” Achim Steiner

Climate Change: The Scientific Evidence

Wednesday, 5 September 2007

Afternoon Roundtable Session

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Conference Room 4



Andrew Revkin

ANDREW REVKIN, Journalist, New York Times, served as the moderator for the 'Climate Change: The Scientific Evidence' panel and opened the session by highlighting the polarisation around the climate change discourse. He said there were at least two factions in these dialogues; those who considered it a hoax and others who believed it to be a catastrophe unfolding in real time. We were on a path towards having an ever-greater influence on the planet and its long-term impact could change the world to a profoundly different one, if things stayed the same. Mr. Revkin walked participants through a historical timeline to emphasise how the problem of climate change had been on the public agenda since the 19th century. The first New York Times story on the subject was dated 1890, when the ice 'crop' failed in the Hudson River Valley, due to temperate

winters and New York City was forced to import ice from Norway. In 1932 another story revealed that global warming was causing sea levels to rise and therefore, "warmer world, higher seas" was the cliché that held firm for a long time. At that time only a few scientists thought that human influence on climate was possible. A subsequent article in 1956 introduced the notion that a warmer climate might be the result of increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Hence, there was a significant body of science suggesting that carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere trapped heat and continued to make the world warmer. It was also suggested that coal and oil still remained plentiful and cheap so they would be consumed as long as it was economic. He said until there was no longer a demand for energy sources containing carbon dioxide, our activities would continue to escalate the already grave situation.

"The science that has been built over the course of the century has been a steady progression of understanding. It is not like this was suddenly sprung on the world, that humans are changing, nudging the thermostat of the planet." Andrew Revkin

MICHAEL OPPENHEIMER, Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School and the Department of Geosciences at Princeton University, focussed on the findings of the 4th Assessment Report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the findings of Working Party II, which examined the impact of climate change and the ability of natural systems to adapt to those changes. He concentrated primarily on four consequences of warming; water availability, human health, ecosystems and species, as well as rising sea levels. Considerable reductions in precipitation and evaporation contributed to water scarcity. Mr. Oppenheimer noted decreases in precipitation, in the low to mid latitudes, including Sub-Saharan Africa, where malnutrition and poverty were common phenomena, would be severely affected. He added the Mediterranean Basin, South-Western United States, and Mexico would also suffer the effects of changes in precipitation patterns in terms of food production and water shortages. Ecosystems, such as coral reefs and polar margins were sensitive to even the smallest changes in temperature. He noted an increase of 1-2 degree Celsius would cause a large-scale death of coral reefs, affecting the fish habitat and tourism; the backbone of many island countries' economies. Additionally, the estimated 25% shrinkage over the last 30 years in the Arctic floating ice had reduced the habitat

for niche species, such as polar bears; and an estimated 1-3 degrees Celsius increase in temperature would risk significant extinction. Rising sea levels, as a result of melting ice sheets from Antarctica and Greenland, also posed serious threats especially to countries such as Bangladesh, where 50% of the population lived less than 3 metres above the sea level. Moving to the impacts on human health, Mr. Oppenheimer pointed out that in 2003 the estimated 40,000 heat-related deaths in Europe were found to be higher than deaths caused by influenza and those events were expected to re-occur in the future. However, the more troubling aspect was governments had inadequate plans to deal with the consequences of the warming and they still stood unprepared. He reiterated government would act only to the extent they felt pressured to. Therefore, the NGO community needed to urge local authorities to craft effective mitigation and disaster recovery mechanisms.

"...you can't stop a hurricane from coming to shore but you can prepare for it, minimise the damage and help people restore their life afterwards... ." Michael Oppenheimer



Andrew Revkin, Michael Oppenheimer, Zhenlin Chen, Nirivololona Raholijao and Richard Jordan

ZHENLIN CHEN, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, China Meteorological Administration, discussed the latest scientific findings, particularly from the 4th IPCC Assessment Report. He said climate change should be unambiguous because of the evident changes, not only in temperature and rainfall but also in ocean heat uptake and water vapour modifications. Mr. Chen noted that by the end of the 21st century the temperature was expected to increase by 1.9-4.6 degrees Celsius and sea levels by up to 59 centimetres. Consistent patterns of warming would result in more frequent heat waves and heavy precipitation; and future tropical cyclones would become more intense. He illustrated that scientific analysis, carried out

by the IPCC since 1990, had shown a 90% probability that anthropogenic warming had a discernable influence on the climate system. Therefore, adaptation would be necessary to address the impacts of global warming and many of the consequences could be avoided, reduced or delayed through mitigation. It was vital to revert to more sustainable development in order to amplify environmental stability and lessen vulnerability caused by extreme events. Mr. Chen stressed partial climate data coverage, deterioration of Climate System Observation Network, as well as limitation of participation in the global model comparison impede efforts from developing countries in combating climate change. For instance, the IPCC Working Group II used 29,000 data series to analyse temperature change since 1970 and 28,000 of those data series derived from European studies. On that note, he urged the international community to assist developing countries in areas of research capacity building; integrated approaches to address climate change, adaptation, disaster mitigation and sustainable development in addition to enhancing public awareness. The response to climate change was a systematic issue and could only be resolved through education, training, technology transfer and international cooperation.

".....climate change affects not only the climate itself but also all factors of socio-economic development, including the natural system, biological system, water resources, food security, and so on."
Zhenlin Chen



Nirivololona Raholijao

NIRIVOLOLONA RAHOLIJAO, Head of Applied Research Service, Madagascar National Meteorological Office, spoke on Africa, the continent most vulnerable to climate change. According to Ms. Raholijao, Sub-Saharan Africa produced only 4% of greenhouse gases and emitted 0.7 tons of carbon dioxide in 2000. Since then, Africa had experienced further climatic extremes and natural disasters, which were meteorological in nature, and there was a tendency they would continue to rise in the future. The lack of historical data and progressive degradation of meteorological weather stations had limited scientific research and prevented meteorologists from getting to the bottom of Africa's climate change problems. Furthermore, Africa's economic difficulties made it more vulnerable and incapable of coping with the challenges. Ms. Raholijao stated that Africa's

annual surface temperature had been increasing, while annual precipitation was in decline; seasonal rains subjected Africa to even greater vulnerability. She gave the example of serious droughts in the mid 1970s, which caused grave consequences to the Sahel; and spoke of how the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) 1900-2000 had shown a general increase in sea levels in the continent. It was predicted that Africa would experience 1.5 times the global average of warming and its agricultural production would be reduced in half by the year 2020. Furthermore, degradation in both marine and land ecosystems would endanger its tourist industry. Africa's vulnerability and minimal capacity to adapt to the changing environment was due to, lack of good governance, inadequate infrastructures, difficulties in accessing new technologies, conflicts, diseases and poverty. Ms. Raholijao recommended a number of measures for Africa such as revamping the African Observation System, increasing meteorologists' competency, and moving from the traditional flow systems to a 20th century two-way user interaction technologies. She advised African governments to collaborate with meteorologists, NGOs, and international creditors to implement feasible adaptation strategies.

"...for Africa, the shortest path towards achieving all of these is to learn how to manage and adapt to the year by year changes to the climate and, certainly, we can do this by obtaining climate information in a timely manner." Nirivololona Raholijao

Question and Answer Period

Responding to a question on the population being purposefully diverted from the threats of climate change, Mr. Openheimer stated that the problem was due to inadequate capacity to educate. As such, he advocated several solutions; greater transparency and willingness among scientists to help civil society understand the gravity of global warming.

In response to the question on whether China had suitable geological formations for storing carbon dioxide, Mr. Chen stated that it was still a new area of knowledge for Chinese scientists, although they had conducted some experiments in the oil fields to recover carbon dioxide. Mr. Chen said there should be international co-operation to transfer knowledge from developed countries.

Answering a question on how NGOs could lobby the main causes of global warming, Mr. Jordan emphasised ways that NGOs could become influential was to be creative and engage their community on this topic. According to him, monologue was passé and purposeful dialogue would increase awareness and propel actions.

In response to a question on the influence of the military in contributing to climate change, Mr. Revkin highlighted how the military was more concerned about energy efficiency, rather than climate change, and they embarked on

projects to develop products, which were energy efficient. He suggested that perhaps the global community could tap into such products, which could indirectly reduce greenhouse gas emission. Mr. Oppenheimer added that, very often, military information was secret and difficult to validate but the public needed to demand information, especially if military technologies could save the environment.

During the question and answer period, Ms. Wendy Abrams, Founder and Chair of Cool Globes was invited to speak briefly about the Cool Globes initiative. She mentioned her interest on the issue started six years ago after reading an article on climate change. Ms. Abrams stated the core purpose of the projects was to raise awareness; the public needed to be empowered, and became part of the solution. She shared how several Cool Globes' board members came up with the idea of using public art to raise awareness. Each artist designed a 5 feet by 6 feet high globe featuring a solution to the climate change problems. Some of the 125 solutions portrayed by the globes focussed on energy efficiency, raising environmentally conscious children, recycling, and planting trees. Ms. Abrams also stressed the need to link the scientific evidence with social issues and with that in mind, Cool Globes had been working with the United Nations to develop programmes and curriculum on environmental issues for schools in the United States and abroad.

Indigenous Peoples, Culture and Traditional Knowledge

Thursday, 6 September 2007

Morning Roundtable Session

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Conference Room 4

LUCY MULENKEI, Executive Director, Indigenous Information Network (IIN), served as the moderator of the panel session, "Indigenous Peoples, Culture and Traditional Knowledge." She said approximately 400 million indigenous peoples around the world continued to be disadvantaged in terms of development, education and poverty. They were also extremely affected by global warming due to their cultural identity, lack of adequate information technologies and poor infrastructures within the lands they inhabited. Ms. Mullenkei noted the all-important role that traditional knowledge played in the survival and sustainable living of indigenous peoples had remained unrecognised for a very long time. Furthermore, globalisation and aggressive modernisation disrupted indigenous livelihoods in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific. She argued that indigenous peoples stepped up their efforts to confront the issues of global warming through the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and called on Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chair of the Forum to say a few words. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz briefly addressed the audience regarding their work on climate change. She said the traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples and their deep relation with nature allowed them to care for the environment and to decrease carbon emissions in the atmosphere. However, use of alternative bio-fuels proposed by the Kyoto Protocol engendered adverse impacts on mono-crop plantations and mass migration. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz said these issues and other effects of climate change on indigenous peoples would be discussed thoroughly in May 2008. The moderator then acknowledged the usefulness of the Conference in bringing viable scientific data and solutions to equip NGOs with the necessary information and hoped their local governments would take actions accordingly. Subsequently, Ms. Mullenkei opened the floor for panellists to discuss the impacts of climate change on indigenous peoples, their ecosystems and habitats, as well as their traditional early warning systems.

"We know that many indigenous people are really undertaking this [climate change] as a very serious issue, not only affecting our lives, increasing poverty, and also really damaging the ecosystem and the lands that we live in." Lucy Mullenkei



Fiu Elisara

FIU MATA'ESE ELISARA-LA'ULU, Director of Ole Siosiomaga Society (OLSSI), highlighted the environmental challenges specific to the Pacific region and his native land Samoa. The Pacific region covered more than a third of the earth with a population of 7.5 million and according to Auckland University in New Zealand, 95-97% out of those were indigenous. Mr. Elisara described the region as a forgotten continent because the United Nations classified that area as Asia Pacific with the vast majority of its resources being directed to Asia and other countries. He noted that \$ 3 billion worth of its fisheries were taken by the European Union leaving only \$ 250 million for the local demand. In terms of human rights, Mr. Elisara argued that under the United Nations

Charter, every country had the right to exist as a sovereign nation and small island states, such as Samoa should not be treated any different. He said everyone should be allowed to co-exist in a safe environment and as such, there should be universal standards for accountability, responsibility, justice and equality. For example, the Clean Development Mechanisms set by the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions had clearly been ignored

by developed countries and the international community continued to turn a blind eye. Hence, there was a need for an unambiguous leadership that consolidated global solutions with ethics, equality and fairness. In the name of development; nations had been ravaging natural resources throughout history and chose to ignore the consequences, deliberately failing to learn from past mistakes. However, the time had now come to take action; not only individual but a united measure. Mr. Elisara explained how the world had not only neglected the severe impact of climate change on indigenous livelihoods but also their knowledge and tradition about the environment, which was crucial in finding resolutions. All efforts of climate protection ought to be based on responsibility, sincerity and a common understanding of the problems and solution from both developed and developing countries. Mr. Elisara referred to remarks made by Mr. Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations, concerning the potential ability and power of active global citizens to start environmental movements that took into account cultural diversity and basic human rights. On that note, he said every little individual effort and positive vision would inevitably lead to a stable environment.

"...right now we need leadership that are responsible, leadership that do not manipulate, leadership that do not exploit the issue of climate change even more so." Fiu Mata'ese Elisara-La'ulu



Marcos Terena

MARCOS TERENA, Professor, Traditional and Spiritual Knowledge of the Indigenous People,

reaffirmed the commitments of indigenous peoples to protecting the environment and appealed to the international community for similar dedication. Our planet continued to tremble due to extreme events caused by technological advancement, excessive civilisation, atomic science and various other human activities. Mr. Terena pointed out that everyone held the power to protect the earth and carried the responsibility to encourage others to do the same. That was not a philosophy, he exclaimed, but rather a question of existence. He noted the Conference brought the opportunity for all to reassess their individual, community and government based efforts. He further argued

that the most environmentally protected places were inhabited by indigenous peoples and therefore, there was a need for a two-way dialogue, information sharing, and collaboration. Indigenous peoples owned tremendous knowledge about the environment but they were not capable of solving the problem alone. Additionally, he underlined the importance of having a vision for future generations; a vision to leave youth with a better environment. However, he expressed his disappointment with the lack of youth participation in the session. Mr. Terena concluded by saying the United Nations affirmed all habitats were entitled to have a safe environment and therefore we must not falter from protecting our absolute right.

"How are you using your power to take care of the earth? How are you using your power to convince the UN [United Nations] that we all have to protect...and to take care of the earth?" Marcos Terena

MIKHAIL TODISHEV, Director, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), addressed the effects of environmental degradation on indigenous peoples living in Northern Russia, where the stability and development of this region highly depended on the environment; land, and access to natural resources. However, the harmful effects of climate change had continued to generate hardship and insecurity. For instance, last autumn almost 100 polar bears began gathering around a small village in Bankarin in search of food due to ice and snow fragmentation in the arctic shore. Although villagers were able to divert the bears by giving them dead animals to eat, the problem could have been much more severe. Climate change also affected livestock, in particular reindeers, which were the basic source of food for the indigenous peoples. The rising sea levels had made it

impossible for reindeers to feed themselves thereby escalating the mortality rate. Similarly the melting of permafrost had become a serious danger to buildings and other basic infrastructures. The melting of arctic glaciers also made fishing problematic for communities in Northern Russia causing the plankton to move to the north, where the fish and fishers were being forced to trail. Melting mountain glaciers further instigated water insecurity jeopardising herds, pastures as well as human lives. Mr. Todishev explained adaptation will need to be made if the indigenous peoples were going to maintain their environment. It was also crucial to recognise their tradition and knowledge of the environment to craft a global solution. Finally, he stressed the importance of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and urged civil society to push member states to reach consensus.

"It is very important that traditional knowledge of indigenous people on climate change ... be used for human society; however, use of this knowledge is rather low." Mikhail Todishev



Marcos Terena, Daniel Rogei, Lucy Mullenkei, Fui Elisara and Mikhail Todishev

DANIEL SALAU ROGEI, Founder, Simba Maasai Outreach Organisation,

began his presentation by describing the relationship between the African indigenous peoples and their environment. The Massai tribe in Kenya were often hunter gatherers, nomadic pastoralists, small scale farmers, or traditional fisher folks; leading a life deeply rooted with nature. The Massai territories were also habitats for over 75% of Kenya's wildlife. Such critical dependence made indigenous peoples wary of the harmful effects of climate change. As such, they continued to employ traditional knowledge to preserve a stable environment for the coming generation and for

the wildlife. Mr. Rogei stressed the developed world continued to be fixated on exploiting the natural resources; negatively impacting the livelihood of indigenous peoples, who in turn served as custodians of the planet throughout history. He said Mount Kilimanjaro was one of the few obvious examples of the adverse impacts of climate change in Africa. It was visually apparent that the ice cap on top of the mountain had been receding causing detrimental effects for indigenous peoples, who relied on the mountain for clean water. Unpredictable weather patterns, common droughts, shrinking resources, loss of biodiversity, and desertification were other impacts of climate change in areas inhabited by indigenous peoples, forcing continuous dependence on aid. Mr. Rogei explained that marginalisation further strained indigenous people from overcoming the harmful effects of environmental degradation. Lack of access to information, commercialisation of forests through carbon trade, and lack of capacity to mitigate, further hindered their capacity to engage in climate protection processes. Mr. Rogei reiterated the willingness of indigenous peoples to contribute to the solution of climate change and said the international community must in turn respect their traditional knowledge and encourage their participation by creating special adaptation funds for indigenous peoples.

"We need to take actions as individuals, as organisations, as governments. This is not time for maintaining our status quo or our economies; it is about time for caring about humanity." Daniel Salau Rogei

Question and Answer Period

Responding to the question on what Maasai youth were doing to combat climate change and what youth of other nations could do to help improve the environment in Kenya, Mr. Rogei explained the Maasai youth had been try-

ing to use resources in the most efficient and sustainable way possible. He emphasised it was the responsibility of everyone to help in that process. The youth could particularly assist with simple things like not driving as much; small steps like those were important to a sustainable environment.

In response to the question about how Greenland, Alaska, and northern Europe could possibly coordinate their environmental efforts; Mr. Todishev highlighted three organisations, which regularly discussed climate change issues specific to their part of the world. Mr. Todishev explained that those organisations were members of an Arctic Convention, which began in 1996 bringing equal status and rights to indigenous peoples. Other organisations were also undertaking extensive research on the effects of climate change on indigenous peoples.

During this question and answer period Mr. William Littlechild, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues was invited to give a few remarks on the prospective of First Nations' situation in terms of climate change and its impact on indigenous people. He said global warming had devastating effects on transportation, water quality, food security, human health, community infrastructure, and housing of the indigenous Cree population in Canada. Similarly, the spiritual connection of the people with their land; deemed as an important element of the traditional livelihood was also beginning to be destroyed causing further havoc. Mr. Littlechild pleaded to the international community to take into account indigenous peoples' role and their traditional knowledge into future capacity building and adaptation programmes.

Water Security and Climate Change

Thursday, 6 September 2007

Morning Roundtable Session

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1

FIONA HARVEY, Environment Correspondent, Financial Times, served as the moderator for the panel discussion on “Water Security and Climate Change”. She said climate change was probably the biggest challenge facing humanity and the issue of water was closely linked. It would have been impossible to overstate the aspects of water security while so many in the world were denied access to clean water and sanitation. Ms. Harvey noted that water scarcity aggravated by climate change posed an enormous obstacle to social and economic development. She hoped that the assembled experts went beyond a mere introduction of the problem to offer ideas for viable solutions.

CECILIA UGAZ, Deputy Director, Human Development Report Office (HDRO) United Nations Development Programme, explained that the water crisis had two distinct aspects; water for human consumption and water for livelihood.



Galen Fulford, Eilon Adar, Cecilia Ugaz, Fiona Harvey and Eleanor Jones

Climate change had made a pressing issue of the latter and represented a massive violation of human rights due to increasing stress on supply and scarcity. Currently, 1.1 billion people lacked clean water and 2.6 billion people required access to sanitation, generating grave consequences on human

development. Ms. Ugaz said, as we went about our businesses today, 5000 children would have died owing to a lack of clean water. Meanwhile, half of the population of the developing world suffered from sanitation related illnesses and 40 billion hours per annum were spent by women in those countries collecting water. However, the most astonishing aspect was our tolerance to such a crisis marked by inequality, which stroked the poor directly. In Peru, the upper and middle class had 100% access to water, while those at the bottom level wasted enormous amounts of time fetching water for their families. Ms. Ugaz noted an even more disconcerting fact; the poor paid up to 10 times more for their water than households connected to main water supplies. In terms of the Millennium Development Goals, reports showed that we were on target to halve the number of people currently without access to water and sanitation by 2015. Those average based figures, she said; concealed unpleasant facts, in that it would actually take 35-63 years for Sub-Saharan Africa to achieve that goal. In economic terms, we would need to invest \$10 billion to achieve the same goal for Sub-Saharan Africa; less than two days budget for military expenditure around the globe. Ms. Ugaz urged civil society to persuade governments and the international community to re-direct their resources and start focusing on regulatory capacities, which were crucial in the issue of water distribution.

“...climate change points to less secured livelihoods, to greater vulnerability to hunger and poverty, to worsening inequalities and to costing much more environmental degradation.” Cecilia Ugaz



Eleanor Jones

ELEANOR JONES, Managing Director, Environmental Solutions Ltd, noted that access to safe water in the Caribbean was conditioned by storage availability and distribution. A lack of adequate maintenance to drainage channels and structures also reduced infrastructure effectiveness and economic stability. Floods, hurricanes, saline intrusion and drought further weakened the already strained supply systems. During 2004-2005, the Kingston Metropolitan Area in Jamaica suffered losses to several water supply works and mains. Ms. Jones noted that a 'risk management' approach was needed to lessen the challenges associated with climate change and sustainable water supplies. The Caribbean Community's Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) adopted various result and programme-based frameworks that provided a forum for information exchange while strengthening integrative risk reduction initiatives. However, Ms. Jones acknowledged that further capacity-building mechanisms needed to be introduced into the water sector and she suggested some adaptation strategies. These included mainstreaming the existing Disaster and Risk Management Programme; re-directing invest-

ments in maintenance and mitigation measures to ensure efficiency and reduce vulnerability; institutionalising data collection within climate and water-related agencies; tailoring conservation and recycling policies as well as integrating community participation into planning. Given the financial constraints in developing areas, such as the Caribbean, community involvement was crucial in boosting urban water storage capacities within individual households. Substantial public investment was also required to put in place risk identification and vulnerability assessment plans to reduce infrastructural damages. In conclusion, Ms. Jones emphasised the only way forward was to engage the relevant communities in environmental protection, maintenance and sustainability, as well as infrastructural investment issues.

"The dependency syndrome, which has been following disaster events and emergency response funds in the Caribbean and elsewhere has to be eliminated....building community resilience to prevent, prepare for, respond and recover from the onslaught of natural hazards is essential ." Eleanor Jones

EILON ADAR, Director, Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research, Ben Gurion University, said evidence of climate change and its impact on vulnerable populations, water security and land use could be inferred from geological marks and history. The world was becoming warmer due to massive accumulations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Evidence showed such warming dried up the semi-arid zones along the world desert belt, especially the borders of the Saharo-Arabian deserts. Mr. Adar noted that these countries, which bore little responsibility for the causes, would experience severe consequences and their agricultural production would be hit the hardest because of changing rainfall patterns. Drought and hunger would increase in the arid and semi-arid belts and with them the suffering of the local population. He said this looming global disaster raised the question of whether the conventional policy of 'sustainable development' would enable humanity to avoid further disasters, including water shortages. He underlined the impossibility to meet the increasing demand for water and food by just improving water-use efficiency. Therefore, desalination of sea and groundwater and water-treatment measures of effluents and rivers needed to be utilised to improve supply and quality of water. It was also not possible to sustain the increasing demand for water and food using the concept of "sustainable development," as one could not sustain that with diminishing water supply and increasing global population. The development of existing natural water resources with new and advanced technologies must be employed to increase water security while minimising environmental degradation. Mr. Adar emphasised expanding education in science and technology was key in

discovering innovative methods, which in turn could ensure survival. He said that some of the worst-case scenarios could be avoided by acting swiftly and decisively at every level of the decision-making process: looking for scientific novelties to provide additional water resources in terms of quantity and quality. Mr. Adar finally extended his gratitude to Mr. Arie Issar, co-author of this presentation for his crucial contribution.

“Adopting the Holistic Integrated Approach to avoid Environmental Catastrophe – “New Water” must be developed simultaneously with alternative sources of energy; one cannot be solved without the other!” Eilon Adar



Galen Fulford

GALEN FULFORD, Founding Partner of the Ecovillage Institute, said that if we extrapolated the world’s hydrological systems with six degrees of climate change we could see that water security, in this very possible scenario, would be virtually impossible. We must stop climate change or face a world, where our water supplies would be unable to support our current population. There were various environmentally friendly and economically viable actions that could possibly be applied to establish water security. Over a billion people worldwide lacked sufficient potable water and sanitation facilities, which escalated the contamination of freshwater supplies. Water treatment and recycling technologies ought to be made a global priority. Ecological water-treatment technologies, which maximise powerful treatment capacity found in plants and aquatic microbiology, could be utilised to clean and restore contaminated waters affordably, with a reduced energy requirement. These technolo-

gies could also be replicated and operated by people with on-site training. Our security further depended on an ability to recycle urban water for agriculture and eliminating the competition for limited supply between food production and urbanisation. Mr. Fulford pointed out that sustainable water use equated directly to the amount of average rainfall, therefore, our ability to collect and store annual rainfall was fundamental to our long-term water security. He also said large dams were important, but they could open up big surface areas to evaporation, so that storing water underground or covering them with vegetation could slow evaporation and decrease flooding. This had been effective in many locations, such as Auroville near Pondichery in India, where over a million trees had been planted and a dry dusty plain restored to a diverse and productive tropical forest. A changing climate also destabilised hydrological patterns and threatens centralised water supplies. Decentralised water supplies were more resilient and adaptable to change; the use of hand pumps, local reservoirs, family sized water filters and reserve drinking water tanks were thus essential elements in maintaining security. Finally, Mr. Fulford stressed that reducing greenhouse gas emission was the key to establishing water security and by working together as friends, families and communities; we could develop the cooperation and social support network necessary to reducing emissions as well as implementing renewable energy projects. Successful collaborative initiatives could also show policy makers that the population was awake and committed, so they would be able to set the rigorous targets required knowing there was the ability and will to implement the changes.

“The actions to establish water security within our changing climate are not new; they all involve a simple understanding of the way the earth cleans and holds fresh water and an understanding that continuous growth within a limited biosphere is physically impossible.” Galen Fulford

Question and Answer Period

Responding to the comment made on the prospects of water technology, Mr. Adar explained that the technology already existed and the issue at hand was whether the present equipment and machinery were economically viable. Currently sources of energy seemed to be less expensive than alternative green sources, however in the long run their damages to the environment outweighed their cost benefits. Hence, it was important to note that, although some methods of gathering water may appear to be efficient, in reality, they lent little help to environmental security.

In answering the question on the role of the private sector in the issue of water security, Ms. Jones explained the private sector was perceived as the 'bad guys' and the public sector often created policies that were smokescreens. Therefore, she stressed the importance of involving the private sector and focusing more on building effective partnerships necessary for implementing integrated water management.

In response to the same question, Mr. Fulford emphasised the challenge brought the opportunity for the private sector to get involved with waste water treatment and water recycling. That avenue could provide more fruitful results in return for 'entrepreneurial efforts'. However, Mr. Fulford explained due to conflicting interests, the involvement of private sector in other areas of water security must be closely scrutinised.

Coping with Climate Change: Best Land Use Practices

Thursday, 6 September 2007
 Afternoon Roundtable Session
 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Conference Room 4

KHALED DAWOUD, Correspondent, Al-Jazeera, was the moderator in a discussion entitled “Coping with Climate Change: Best Land Use Practices”. In his introduction, he expressed the growing negative impacts of climate change in relation to geographical location, especially in developing countries, where the implications on agriculture and deforestation reached critical levels.



Li Xiaolin

LI XIAOLIN, Vice-President, Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), said that her organisation was aware that one of the Millennium Development Goals was to ensure sustainable resource development. China, as a developing country with 1.3 billion inhabitants, had 80% of the population in rural areas, but the per capita area of arable farmland was 0.23 acres, one third of the global average. She said China was able to feed 22% of the world’s population with just 7% of the arable land and could be proud of its achievement, since launching reformed government policies 20 years ago. However, Ms. Li explained agricultural modernisation could not be achieved without technology and it was vital to promote sustainable agricultural practices and education for farmers, who were the backbone of rural economies. Government policies promoted rational

land use and efficiency to tackle impending and foreseeable problems that posed a threat to the land, especially desertification where population growth forced encroachment on arable land and forestry. Ms. Li said her organisation in co-operation with the China Environmental Protection Foundation planted cash crops and assisted poor farmers to complete their education. She believed it could become a model project of sustainable development. She was pleased to see Chinese NGOs playing a more important role in the climate issue and the Chinese government was paying attention to the efforts of civil society. However, she admitted, as demand rose, there were greater environmental challenges needing to be addressed, such as increasing urban pollution. Looking ahead, Ms. Li expressed the need for joint measures to bridge the gap between the impoverished agro-farming communities throughout China so that the realisation of the MDG in reducing greenhouse gases could be achieved.

“Nobody can do without land. Land is the basis and valuable resource on which human beings rely for existence. To protect the farmland is to protect our lifeline.” Li Xiaolin

ROSALIND PETERSON, California President and Co-Founder, Agriculture Defense Coalition (ADC), focused her presentation on the toxic gases being discharged into the atmosphere and how they influenced changing weather patterns. She mentioned weather modification programmes, which had no oversight, could alter micro-climates and modified growing seasons needed for pollination. She also discussed the idea of mitigating climate change through geo-engineering, which included putting chemicals into the atmosphere in order to reduce its negative impacts. However, such measures hampered crop production as it reduced the sunlight available for photosynthesis. She highlighted the impact of jet contrails on US crop production as these trapped heat by producing man-made clouds. NASA studies showed that part of the global warming problem could be attributed to this phenomenon as it caused increase in humidity as well as encouraged pest and fungus proliferation. Ms. Peterson

claimed NASA and the US Air Force used canisters of chemicals to experiment with the ionosphere repeatedly with no oversight. This increased pollution and affected drinking water purity, for example, water testing conducted by the State Department of Health in California and Arizona showed unusual traces of chemicals such as aluminium and barium. The use of aluminium in such experiments also caused the destructions of plants and trees in the region as they could not absorb water or necessary nutrients. Finally, she concluded by adding that increased jet fuel emissions released nitric acid into the atmosphere and depleted the ozone layer. Ms. Peterson believed it was time to concentrate on reducing pollution at its source and not invest in geo-engineering schemes, which could bring about yet more damage.

"If we don't look at the problems we are creating ... and we say to ourselves we want to geo-engineer or add more particulates to help global warming or stop climate change, we are going to have a pea-soup of chemicals detrimental to our health." Rosalind Peterson



Pekka Patosaari, Rosalind Peterson, Khaled Dawoud and Li Xiaolin

PEKKA PATOSAARI, Director, Secretariat for the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), stressed the need for adoptive strategies in implementing sustainable forest management; vital to the adaptation and mitigation of climate change. He underlined the importance of forests to act as 'sinks', which absorbed emissions and stored carbon. Forests made up 30% of the world's landmass, with one billion people relying on them in some way and 70 million indigenous peoples totally dependent while others benefited from forestry products. Mr. Patosaari said policymakers should strive to ensure the security of ecosystems and long-term sustainability of natural resources by promoting the mitigation of forestry through deforestation reduction. Human activity was the main source of forestry carbon emissions, in the form of deforestation and

degradation, therefore, proper management was crucial to balance the divergent priorities of development and ecological sustainability. Consequently, the United Nations had taken further action in safeguarding the forests' survival by preserving the biodiversity of forest life and securing the rights of indigenous peoples. In cultivating international cooperation, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) designated the "non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests" in the hope of preserving natural forest resources and mitigating present and imminent threats within the forestry sector. At the same time, it encouraged greater participation in devising sustainability practices. Mr. Patosaari said this set "a framework for the implementation of sustainable forest management by all countries" and he anticipated when the General Assembly meeting convened in autumn, it would adopt this pivotal instrument. The framework was expected to provide guidance on science and protection of the environment; trade and law enforcement; education and monitoring; industry and local community involvement. Sustainable forest management contributed to the mitigation of green house gas emissions and action could be taken to increase those forests with greater carbon uptake, reducing deforestation and increasing the amount of bio-energy. In addition, these could lead to land use restoration, water runoff management and greater employment. Adaptation strategies could further protect land and people from rising global temperatures and as a result assisted in alleviating poverty. Mr. Patosaari revealed rising temperatures in Europe had seen increases in forest fires and pest infestation. The IPCC stated that increased temperature added to a decline in timber production over much of North America and Europe while soil water reduction would see a gradual replacement of tropical forest by savannah in Eastern Amazonia. Therefore, specific forest mitigation strategies needed to be in place. The two most basic governmental policy tools to promote sustainable forest management were financial incentives and regulations, but the former was tied to lack of capital. Mr Patosaari placed good governance as the most important element

of a sustainable forest management programme and expressed his concern over the lack of monitoring capacity and law enforcement exhibited in developing countries.

"Forests have tremendous potential to serve as a tool in combating climate change, protecting people and livelihoods and creating a foundation for more sustainable economic and social development..."

Pekka Patosaari



Dickson Despommier

DICKSON DESPOMMIER, Professor of Public Health and Microbiology, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, introduced the reasoning behind farming inside the confines of large cities. Using flooding as an example, he mentioned the loss of soil caused by monsoon rains and the estimated loss of \$10 billion crops in the Mississippi Valley. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), soil loss was 20 times the rate of replacement and when a successful crop was grown, pest infestation was apparent. Additionally, increasing population and fossil fuel contributions put greater pressure on resources. Although some scholars believed that the simple act of tree planting would restore the environment, there was

insufficient space to plant enough trees to single handily save the planet. He explained how we could raise crops in a safe, controlled environment to produce organically certifiable food while generating water and purifying waste material. He believed the technology was already available to achieve this goal. Mr. Despommier introduced his plan for the future, indoor farming in tall buildings, known as 'vertical farming', as an alternative method of food production. He saw many advantages of this type of farming in eliminating desertification and deforestation, lessening pollution, and providing year round crop growth as each city could produce a sustainable urban lifestyle. He foresaw no weather related crop failure or seasonality of crops, which could be watered using untreated sewage. Such farming method was also believed to reduce the carbon footprint since food was used and produced locally. Mr. Despommier reiterated possible conflicts arising from scarcity of the world's natural resources could be reduced by adopting the vertical farming methods. He also hailed the need to devise adequate and sustainable means of acquiring and producing food for the world's impoverished.

"With Virtual Farming, everyone can eat a balanced meal. It allows us the choice of food; it allows possibilities of urban sustainable life. A city can provide everything for itself, in a safe clean fashion, but we have to work at that." Dickson Despommier

Question and Answer Period

In response to a question about the Chinese government's reaction in tackling pollution in the region, Ms. Li said there were no penalties in place for offenders. She explained the government had tried to set up policies to conquer this growing problem, but high automobile use and the use of coal as energy persisted. However, the government had begun to encourage commuters to use alternate methods as tremendous challenge laid on safeguarding the natural resources.

Ms. Peterson addressed a question on the staggering implications of warfare, especially in Iraq and how the atmospheric pollution of jets affected global warming. She reiterated jets and planes worldwide were contributing to the air pollution, which impacted negatively on agriculture and considered it to be a serious problem.

Mr. Patosaari was asked how the United Nations could prevent illegal logging occurring everywhere, especially in countries, where the lives of the indigenous groups were thwarted by unregulated practices. In response, he said the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), a high-level body allowed states to negotiate and agree on issues of action. UNFF had currently agreed on maintaining good governance as part of the 'non-legally binding instrument', which would be revisited at every session. Mr. Patosaari said good governance was the principle of democracy, fighting corruption, and law-enforcement based on national regulation, in respect of international law and agreement. He stressed appropriate measures needed to be taken to advocate human rights, democracy and to systematically review of corruptions. He noted the importance of good governance and said illegal logging could never be dealt with in isolation.

The Economics and Politics of Energy and Climate Change

Thursday, 6 September 2007
 Afternoon Roundtable Session
 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Conference Room 1



Barbara Bramble, John Holdren, Jacqueline McGlade,
 Klaus Scheuerer and Alison Sander

JACQUELINE McGLADE, Executive Director, European Environment Agency, moderated the panel session, "The Economics and Politics of Energy and Climate Change". During her opening remarks, she noted, within the issue of climate change, there laid a significant debate over energy, land use, agriculture and their correlation. For instance, Europe had taken the leap to combining energy and environmental policies, as well as setting targets to increase the use of renewable energy by 20% in 2020. However,

such policies including bio-energy, once seen as contributing to the greater good were now compromising each other. Europe was able to produce 207 million tonnes of bio-fuel but to achieve that; approximately 25% of the land would need to be covered in fuel crops, compromising food and water security. As such, there should be a thorough risk assessment and policy review system in place to tackle some of the 'geo-political' challenges. Ms. McGlade reminded the audience that both environmental problems and their solutions required extensive discussions and considerations. There was no single solution, but many different ways to address climate change issues. She also focussed on the personal concerns and sense of insecurity towards the effects of climate change on future generations. Despite the ongoing political debate, we as individuals, could act now and make personal commitments and changes to our environment.

"...We are in fragile territory both politically, in governance terms, and environmentally. What we really face, under the climate change and energy debate, is distortion of food markets, the world market in taxes and energy subsidies, as well as international law, that could lead us to areas of grave conflict."

Jacqueline McGlade

ALISON SANDER, Globalisation Topic Advisor, Boston Consulting Group (BCG), primarily addressed the issue of climate change from a corporate world perspective. She explained that the private sector was now becoming more involved with environmental and sustainability issues. They had started to shift their focus from office recycling to the introduction of multilateral environmental solutions for their stakeholders, such as carbon footprint reduction. Ms. Sander argued the corporate world was indeed moving away from the view of environmental responsibility as financial liability to seeing it as a real business opportunity. The so-called 'green products' currently created a \$100 billion per annum market and that figure was expected to rise to \$380 billion by 2011. That new market, and the involvement of business, must be viewed as an opportunity to bring the climate change discussion to the top of the global agenda. However, lack of collaboration and uniform accountability standards hindered those initiatives from reaching their potential. For example, carbon emissions reduction methods, whereby individual companies employed different emissions-measuring mechanisms thereby making it almost impossible to calculate or compare the results across the board. Therefore, coordination of civil society and NGOs with their governments was imperative to design uniform measurement and accountability standards. On a personal level, Ms. Sander talked about "Alt-Wheels", the largest festival on the USA East Coast, which

attracted over 20,000 people to discuss alternative transport means and cleaner energy sources. She began this initiative after her return from Ecuador, where she learned that the government had parcelled off the rainforest for hard currency. Ms. Sander went on to explain the significant lessons she learnt in organising the festival, including the importance of group collaboration, an understanding that there was no 'quick fix' to the climate problem, the importance of creating mainstream solutions, as well as the realisation that the gap between awareness and change must be bridged.

"When I started in this field ... environmental responsibility was seen as an issue of cost ... it is now viewed as a real business opportunity." Alison Sander



Klaus Scheuerer

KLAUS SCHEUERER, Representative of the Board for Traffic & Environment, BMW Group, focussed on the efforts made by the automobile industry to address the challenges of climate change. He noted the IPCC report, showed only 7% of man-made carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions were produced by vehicles, therefore, all sectors involved with the problem needed to share the burden and seek the optimum balance between ecological, economical, and social interests. Mr. Scheuerer said BMW accepted its responsibility and intended to address the challenge by implementing a three-part strategy of saving energy, supplementing existing fuels and the substitution of carbon fuels by renewable energy for cleaner energy. Saving

energy was a short-term strategy, which could be accomplished through more efficient vehicle dynamics, increased engine efficiency, light weight construction, and the introduction of intelligent management systems. For example, BMW managed a 20% reduction in fuel consumption through cutting the direct connection between the engine, which produced mechanical energy, and the generator, used for propelling the vehicle. Mr. Scheuerer emphasised that such short-term solutions would be insufficient to reach set targets of CO₂ neutrality. Hence, supplementing existing fuels; a mid-term strategy, focussing on use of a second generation bio fuels, was needed to extend the life of fossil fuel sources. He said the search for alternative fuels brought its own restrictions, as it was tied with both economic advantage and ethical issues, such as the dilemma between growing energy-producing plants rather than agricultural crops, which sustained lives. It was, therefore, crucial in the long term to substitute carbon fuels with hydrogen, or electrical energies. Hydrogen, extracted from renewable sources, had the greatest potential as a substitute for fossil fuels. However, it was both time-consuming and costly to produce this clean energy source, in addition to building compatible vehicles that would eventually contribute to a carbon-free environment. He said all parties including the oil and gas industries, public authorities, and politicians must combine their efforts to oversee a stable future.

"What we need for the future [is] strategic alliances between all involved stakeholders. If all these parties bring together their best ideas and derive from it appropriate strategies, then I think we have very good preconditions to pave the way into a sustainable future." Klaus Scheuerer

BARBARA BRAMBLE, Senior Advisor for International Affairs, National Wildlife Federation, outlined current and visible impacts of climate change as well as possible future effects, which could seriously weaken the global environment. She noted the spread of infectious diseases, such as malaria, was among the many devastating impacts of global warming. That was partly due to rising climate change cost, which hijacked development system funds, such as health care. Unfortunately, less-developed countries suffered most of the consequences and would need significant

assistance. Ms. Bramble said she was confident that the United States would step up its environmental efforts not only by increasing funding for poverty reduction but also in sustainable development and adaptation measures. In spite of a slow-moving current administration, she said, a large number of states, cities, and towns had taken steps on their own to lower their use of fossil fuels. Twenty-five states had already put together renewable electricity standards and the United States Mayors' initiatives managed to commit 656 towns and cities to reduce their carbon footprint. One of the purposes of this action was to pressure the federal government to consider the climate change issue at a higher lever, and as a result, several promising bills in the United States Senate were currently being introduced. Most importantly, carbon credit and tradable permit systems, necessary to cover the cost of climate change solutions were being implemented in New England and Central Atlantic, as well as in several Canadian provinces. For example, the National Wildlife Federation had been pushing for funds to alleviate crises caused by flooding and storms as well as to enable ecosystems to adapt to the changing environment. Moreover, the lack of funding required for solutions would negatively impact the poor and as part of a fair climate deal, the United States, must provide significant assistance. Ms. Bramble underlined that, as one of the major emitters, the United States needed to take the first step towards such a global effort.

"Development and environment are really coming back together in reality and doing nothing is likely to be a whole lot more expensive than doing something, and the doing something has opportunities for everyone." Barbara Bramble



John Holdren

JOHN HOLDREN, Director, Woods Hole Research Institute, began his address by underlining the scientific realities of climate change. He said that global warming was accelerating and, as a result, increasing the frequency of natural disasters, such as floods and droughts. As a society, we had been presented with three basic choices when it came to climate change; mitigation, adaptation, or suffering. Although we are expected to do more on all of these three options, the question was if we were going to do enough of all the three combinations. Mr. Holdren reminded the audience that maximising mitigation to avoid increased suffering required instantaneous major shifts in both energy and land-use practices. Emphasising the technical and economic realities of climate change, he noted that coal and

oil provided 80% of the world's energy, at a cost of \$14 trillion. This made it impossible to alter the current global energy system overnight, even if it was apparent that the process produced 30 billion tonnes of carbon emissions per annum. Similarly, deforestation and burning in the tropics, that produced 5-10 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, were significant components of local economies making sudden change extremely difficult. Mr. Holdren said the cheapest and fastest way to reduce CO₂ emissions was to boost efficiency and energy end-use in buildings as well as in industry and transport systems. Other solutions, such as wind and bio-fuel energy sources, were significant means of reducing emissions and their benefits outweighed their costs. Therefore, public funding mechanisms would need to be in place to implement clean energy sources and reduce conventional pollution. Mr. Holdren concluded by saying that the industrialised countries needed to lead the way in compensating developing countries for building their own risk reduction and avoidance capacities. Necessary global reductions could never be realised without an internationally binding agreement on apportionment of emissions.

"Adequate mitigation is going to require paying to reduce emission of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases perhaps as much as 1-2% of world GDP. We can afford it. We need to afford it! It will be cheaper than suffering the damages" John Holdren

RICHARD KINLEY, Deputy Executive Director, Secretariat for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), claimed we had learned new truths about climate change. We had now reached scientific consensus that warming was indisputable and accelerating. Climate change had also become part of the popular consciousness and the media provided informed and articulated environmental coverage. Mr. Kinley said global warming had multiple implications on the economics and politics of every nation. Lack of resources and extreme weather events incurred poverty, mass migration and conflict shuddering socio-economic and political stability. Substantive commitments had been exhibited in the political arena; however, effective inter-governmental negotiations often failed due to wide-spread reluctance. Reluctance derived from a misconception that environmental stability could only be realised at the expense of economic growth. On the contrary, Mr. Kinley stressed climate protection and economic prosperity reinforced one another. He noted the December 2007 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali would be an arena, where international cooperation on climate change could be accelerated. The Bali Conference had the potential to be triumphant if the following five elements were included in the dialogue. Primarily, industrialised countries, with advanced abilities and greater responsibility, must continue to lead the way to climate security. Secondly, developing countries needed to engage in carbon-incentive or green investments, especially nations beginning to contribute to carbon emissions. Thirdly, the necessary steps to address adaptation to current and future impacts of climate change must be taken. Particularly, developing countries must be given financial and technological assistance for adaptation and disaster recovery programmes. Fourthly, a greater effort must be made to reduce emissions from deforestation. Finally, the carbon market needed to be given full flexibility to promote cost effective carbon emissions reductions and generate funds required to support developing countries. Mr. Kinley emphasised the suggested actions certainly required considerable investment but doing nothing would be a recipe for disaster. There seemed to be increasing financial costs of inaction and the potential security implications in those areas with significant shortages and inequalities could be a 'driver of conflict'. In conclusion, Mr. Kinley offered his concern as climate change took centre stage and galvanised more public attention, NGOs might shift their focus and energy towards other issues. Hence, he urged the NGO community to continue their valuable role as drivers of positive social revolution and as advocates of action.

"Climate actions are critical to meeting development needs and to avoiding the high costs of climate change." Richard Kinley

Question and Answer Period

Responding to many questions regarding individual action, Mr. Kinley emphasised that solving climate change problems began with individual actions but these were not enough. Individuals must work together under the guidance of their local government, who in turn, must cooperate with the international community. He placed transparent elections as a crucial part of a process that could bring fundamental changes.

In response to a question for BMW regarding the production of electric or solar panel cars, Mr. Scheuerer agreed that if there was an abundant supply of electrical energy and if the right kind of batteries existed, which fulfilled the requirements placed upon them by the consumer and manufacturer, then it would be an intelligent decision to produce such vehicles. However, available batteries did not have a sufficient lifetime and were not cost effective to power electric cars at this time. Therefore, until technology caught up, BMW could not afford to offer these kinds of vehicles to their customers.

Mr. Holdren added to this statement by reminding the audience of problems with our electricity systems. He said the United States and China generated 50% and 70% of electricity power respectively from coal burning, which was the highest CO₂ emitting source of energy. Thus, although electric cars were indeed important options, efforts should be made to primarily fix our electrical supplies.

Streamlining the System

Friday, 7 September 2007
 Morning Roundtable Session
 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 Conference Room 4

KIYO AKASAKA, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Communications and Public Information, served as the moderator for the morning roundtable session, "Streamlining the System". He highlighted the important role the United Nations had played in designing programmes and setting standards to combat the impacts of climate change. However, Mr. Akasaka acknowledged, the implementation of some of these standards had failed due to the lack of effective administrative authority, overlapping conventions and treaties, as well as inadequate coherence among environmental institutions. He said the panel discussion would mainly focus on the recommendations made by the High Level Panel on United Nations System-Wide Coherence, and on the proposals contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, which stressed the importance of strengthening international environmental governance to improve the effectiveness of environmental activities within the United Nations system.

"The implementation of many of these [climate change] standards has failed to materialise, often owing to the lack of political will, the lack of efficient and effective governance, unpredictable funding and the use of outdated practices." Kiyoko Akasaka



Maria Ivanova

MARIA IVANOVA, Assistant Professor of Government and Environmental Policy, College of William and Mary, admitted while individual efforts, such as recycling were necessary, they were insufficient to address the issues of climate change and affirmed the need for a larger systematic movement to secure a viable solution. Her presentation focused on the global environmental governance system, its current architecture and desired future transformations. With her undergraduate students, Ms. Ivanova analysed various international organisations and secretariat treaties to assess the relationship between their multiplicity and incoherence. This organisational assessment was performed based on three dimensions: analytical, normative, and operational work. In terms of analytical work, Ms. Ivanova argued their multiplicity should

not be viewed negatively, as long as they communicated with each other. The number of organisations and treaties should not affect their activities in setting norms, standards and guidelines as long as they were able to reach comparable conclusions. Neither should their number conflict or overlap with their individual operations on the ground. Ms. Ivanova acknowledged the myth that governments intentionally designed a fragmented system to promote national interests without having to adhere to a global treaty. She dismissed this notion of 'purposeful ineffectiveness' in the system design and rather highlighted what was missing; a strong authoritative body at the core of the global environmental governance system. She said that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had not fulfilled its anchor role and the main reasons for its failure were that UNEP was designed as a small, flexible and agile programme that mainstreamed environmental issues to other organisations. Furthermore, the programme was established with voluntary funding because, if a specialised agency was reliant on mandatory contributions, its budget would have to be distributed among all Member States, including developing countries and in 1970, the Member States saw environmental problems as a Northern agenda. Finally, despite the strong commitment exhibited by the United States at the conception of UNEP, this passion seemed to have faded way

over the years. Ms. Ivanova said reform was still possible and it was imperative to create a more authoritative anchor organisation if we were to solve this environmental challenge. Member States could do this by granting UNEP an authoritative status with a clear mandate and proper funding. Such an authoritative organisation had the responsibility to regain its respect through excellence.

"I would actually call on you as a movement, rather than individuals, to make a difference by engaging in monitoring the activities of international organisations and confronting them when they are not right, even when it is UNEP." Maria Ivanova



Alexey Kokorin

ALEXEY KOKORIN, Head, Russian Climate and Energy Programme of World Wide Fund (WWF) concentrated on the Arctic to illustrate streamlining required by current systems set up for protecting the environment. Mr. Kokorin briefly described the effect of climate change on the Arctic, as well as the consequences for the rest of the world. Snow and ice from the region were melting at a faster rate than science predicted and its impact was global. Dark surfaces absorbed solar radiation and became warmer; the same process was seen during the last glacial period, 11,000 years ago. Rising sea levels, weakened infrastructures, floating icebergs, and possible increases in methane emissions were all the end results of global warming. It was estimated that some 70,000 tonnes of methane had been accumulated in the

Arctic permafrost and there was a distinct possibility of it being released into the atmosphere. Moreover, as the polar oceans got warmer, the sea water became less saline and lighter, increasing the potential risk on the whole conveyor of oceanic currents. Focusing on the United Nations system and its efforts in the region, Mr. Kokorin noted the requirement for an Arctic Treaty. In general, several organisations were currently working on a variety of environmental issues and the UNFCCC, in particular, executed effective work in greenhouse gas reduction programmes. However, the UNFCCC should not be overloaded with the responsibility for another extensive treaty. The goal of the treaty should concentrate on keeping the region undisturbed for the next 50 to 100 years, while society reduced greenhouse gas emissions. He noted that it was important to bring together many different parties in a collaborative effort. Unfortunately, the nine Arctic countries and the corporate world were putting little effort into this due to conflicting oil and gas motives. Mr. Kokorin concluded by emphasising that an Arctic treaty was a long-term goal facing a lot of opposition; however, it was crucial to improve climate conditions within Arctic regions to secure global environmental stability.

"Streamlining or transforming the UN system is really necessary to sort out this [climate change] tremendous problem in the next decades." Alexey Kokorin

ADNAN AMIN, Executive Director, UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), began by praising the committee on its inspirational choice of topic. He mentioned the enormity of the challenges the international community needed to confront and suggested that instead of pointing out the ineffectiveness of the United Nations as a multilateral framework, its critics should be involved in defining a viable solution. According to Mr. Amin, climate change had grave implications on development, especially in poorer countries. Shifting disease patterns meant that we would be dealing with new health implications and increases in the price of food, impacting nutritional standards. At the same time, the early signs of climate change had resulted in an explosion in the number of extreme weather events, which affected agricultural lands and food production. Resource degradation, such as water scarcity could be a potential area of conflict and every citizen had a part to play as there was no substitute

for collective international action. Mr. Amin illustrated how UNEP, concentrating on its scientific role, had led to the creation of the various international conventions. However, had it not for UNEP's scientific work on ozone and its political work, we would not have the biodiversity treaty or a treaty on persistent organic pollutants. The weakness of the system, as highlighted by Mr. Amin, was that many of the activities took place in a compartmentalised manner; not adding to the collective effort that could make substantial change. One of the reasons, which affected adherence to the various conventions on climate change, was the limited scientific capacity of those involved, who often fell prey to negotiating regimes. Furthermore, the implementation process at the national level was more difficult than reaching agreements at the international level. Political will was also cited as a major constraint in the implementation of the conventions. Mr. Amin underlined the principle of equity and encouraged developed countries to show some serious leadership and offer partnership for mitigation and adaptation to developing countries. He advocated civil society had the power to listen, give ideas and be open to the type of collaboration that was needed as an international community.

"We are a collective global society. Weakness in one part of our society is going to impact the other, and I think that realisation needs to come into the political arena in a very serious way." Adnan Amin



Richard Jordan, Alexey Kokorin, Paul Horwitz,
Kiyo Akasaka, Maria Ivanova and Adnan Amin

PAUL HORWITZ, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Environment Programme, Ozone Secretariat, acknowledged the cynicism surrounding the United Nations efforts on climate change. However, he assured participants that with enough commitment, the accomplishments made in the ozone area could similarly be achieved within the climate change arena. Mr. Horwitz drew attention to the accomplishments of the Montreal Protocol, where 191 countries had agreed to firm 'phase-out' commitments. The Protocol's focus on support, rather than sanctions, had brought back 25 parties into compliance, which subsequently resulted in the elimination of 1.7 million tonnes of ozone depleting substances, a 95% reduction from 1987. Developed and

developing countries were on their way to achieving a 100% reduction prior to the dates set by the Montreal Protocol. Mr. Horwitz noted that this initiative brought impartiality to the developing countries in various ways including technology transfer, capacity building as well as the setting up of regional networks to enable South-South collaboration through a multilateral \$ 2 billion fund. Mr. Horwitz emphasised the possibility of bringing similar levels of success to the greater challenge of climate change. However, he said it was vital to understand the issue of governance and the potential obstacles for reaching consensus. He further noted that it was impossible to reach a 100% consensus within the United Nations system considering differences in cultures, backgrounds and legal systems between Member States. Therefore, it was deemed critical to arrive at an agreement based on fragments of the bigger issue; it was always better to walk away with a smaller win than lose in all aspects of a negotiation. Mr. Horwitz recommended the Environmental Management Group (EMG) develop a coherence assessment tool that would encourage negotiators to consider critical multilateral issues when setting up necessary frameworks.

"...people make a difference and ...the NGOs make such a huge difference that we are seeing it today. You have catalysed action and interest on the climate issue like no one else can. And that is one of the things we had going for us in the ozone issue, too." Paul Horwitz

Question and Answer

Mr. Amin addressed a compressed set of questions relating to the role of the United Nations, G8, and other policy making high level groups. In response, to institutions, he said we could not have change unless we could envision the way things should be. He claimed we all had to look at the current reality and craft a way to move things forward. In the end it was not the institutions that mattered, but the will of the people, the government and what they were prepared to make happen on a daily basis. He asserted that the institutions were enablers of agreement and political will that needed to engage with the people, who drive thinking, public opinion, and change.

Ms. Ivanova, responded to a series of questions aimed at the business of environmental governance, private sector policies and civil society's contribution to the solution of climate change. She said private sectors and the United Nations were equally comprised of individuals, but those individuals were constrained within a certain framework, whether by UN protocols or a business bottom-line ethics. She explained the various shifts in business approaches to environmental governance from their active stance in the 1970s; when they were quick to ignore actions on issues grappling the environment. However, she noted that businesses since the 1990s begun to organise a strong lobby in relation to climate change. They were turning around to listen for environmental solutions or setting up their own standards through organisations, such as the World Trade Organisation and World Economic Forum.

Alexey Kokorin expanded on the responsibility of the private sector and the role of NGOs as watchdogs. Mr. Kokorin explained, there were many examples where private companies set up good ecological standards, but it must be noted that out of self-interest they tended to divert from acceptable standards. As a result, he urged civil society to rally together to put pressure on big businesses to follow uniform ecological standards.

Sustainable Development, Accountability and Ethical Standards

Friday, 7 September 2007

Morning Roundtable Session

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1

BESSAN VIKOU, Correspondent, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)-Afrique, served as moderator of the roundtable session “Sustainable Development, Accountability and Ethical Standards” and began by introducing the topic as well as the panellists.

OLYA MELEN, Head of Legal Unit, Environment-People-Law (EPL), stressed Ukraine had always been an environmentally conscious nation. It was one of the first states to sign both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. More importantly, Ukraine was one of the first nations to initiate a Green Investment Scheme (GIS), which was scheduled to launch in 2008. Not only was this an environmentally friendly project, under Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol, but the proceeds could be used to finance research in other environment friendly initiatives. However, current environmental policies in Ukraine lacked definitive measures regarding greenhouse gas emissions reduction and investments in alternative energy sources. Ms. Melen also noted several concerns in the draft laws of Ukraine’s GIS including financial models of green investments; institutional and organisational mechanisms of green investments; eligibility criteria for the projects qualified for green investments; and control and verification over the implementation of GIS projects. She pointed out that although the practice of allocation of polluters’ taxes had been practiced for over ten years, GIS was new to Ukrainian legislation. Therefore, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine must take responsibility in implementing and controlling projects designed to protect the environment. Additionally, as the launch of the GIS approached the international community must keep an eye on the development of the programme and more efforts should be taken towards the creation of the much needed legislations.

“...whatever the mechanisms will be launched for the implementation of green investments scheme – the role of public must be very strong and active that could ensure positive results for climate change mitigation measures and GIS [Green Investment Scheme] implementation.” Olya Melen



Firmino Mucavele

FIRMINO MUCAVELE, Chief Executive, Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), commenced by telling the audience about the work of NEPAD, an integrated African Union programme designed to promote sustainable development in Africa. He said its initiatives sought to accelerate economic growth and social development through good governance, sound legislative systems, adequate investments, and policies without harming the environment. African countries suffered from both the lowest income levels on record and highest cost of basic services, such as access to water and electricity. This also contributed to lack of infrastructures and much needed public investments. The international community understood that investment in development was the only way out of poverty and had begun to re-direct aid to support African infrastructures and agricultural sectors. Mr. Mucavele noted

environmental degradation was of great concern for sustainable growth and highlighted some of NEPAD’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. NEPAD’s approach, he said, included fossil fuels dependency reduction,

introduction of natural gas and bio-fuels, promotion of renewable energy, improvement of technology for household lighting, as well as forest regeneration. By comparison, Africa produced the least amount of carbon emissions and suffered the most from its consequences, especially in areas of agriculture and food security. He urged developed countries to augment their efforts in decreasing their emissions and invest in the developing countries economies. Furthermore, he said Africa's economy was receptive to climate change and adaptation to foreseeable conditions such as sea-level rise and water scarcity was equally vital. Mitigation and adaptation were mutually exclusive; neither one would be sufficient by itself to combat the issues of climate change. As such, NEPAD's strategy incorporated climate change adaptation with disaster risk management at a grass-roots level to reduce vulnerability. Access to high quality information and knowledge sharing was also deemed important to encourage effective decision making and to promote safety-net mechanisms. The information gap between environment experts and other communities in the development sector must also be bridged to ensure multilateral collaboration both at national and international levels. Mr. Mucavele stressed the immediate need for resources to improve Africa's capacity in areas of research, technological innovation and early warning systems. The \$12 billion allocated so far for such initiatives was not enough; in fact, he said, it was only "a drop in the ocean".

"We in Africa are suffering the effects of climate change, even though we are not the major polluters of this planet." Firmino Mucavele



Michelle Wyman

MICHELLE WYMAN, Executive Director, United States Office of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) – Local Governments for Sustainability, underlined the power cities held within the context of climate

change and sustainable development. Currently, more than 75% of the total energy was consumed in urban areas and the year 2005 set the record for the highest number of people living in cities. Therefore, one could make the assumption that cities had the greatest access to affect climate change directly, swiftly and at a significant scale, claimed Ms. Wyman. The good news was cities had begun taking various actions requisite to effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions through mitigation and increasingly through adaptation. Despite the inequalities exhibited between the developed and developing countries, adaptation would not be enough and therefore, mitigation, particularly in

developed countries was imperative. Consequently, a set of standards agreed on by the international community must be operational in order to enable cities to reduce their emissions. For example, ICLEI used a single emissions analysis tool to work with the cities of Delhi, Berlin and Cape Town to capture and quantify the impact of their carbon production as well as to suggest possible modifications. In the United States alone ICLEI's initiative helped 400 cities, representing a population of 30 million people to reduce their emissions by 23 million tonnes. In India the organisation worked with 16 cities, comprising 23 million people and so far they were able to increase their carbon reductions by five fold. However, Ms. Wyman said, these regulatory schemes were often stalled by competitive advantage, inadequate investment and public infrastructures, absence of accountability, as well as a lack of participation from local governments. Therefore, from an accountability perspective, standard measurements and reporting mechanisms, which provided access to all and took local actions into account was absolutely critical. Ms. Wyman further stressed the importance of transparency and public oversight in bringing equity to the process of quantifying greenhouse gas emissions. She said there should be "transparency in how we are counting and what we are counting" and without public engagement it would be impossible to tackle climate change.

"People now know what global warming is and they generally feel, based on public surveys, that a light bulb is not going to cut it." Michelle Wyman



Tariq Banuri

TARIQ BANURI, Director of Future Sustainability Programme, Stockholm Environment Institute, started by explaining the gravity of environmental degradation. He said the two schematic drivers of climate change were population and economic growth that resulted in the increase of carbon content within the atmosphere. The atmosphere was made up of 79% nitrogen, 20.96% oxygen and 0.4% carbon, which was increasing to 0.5% just in the last few decades. This 0.1% elevation in carbon concentration led to temperature rise. In the last century alone the temperature increased by 7 degrees Celsius and an escalation of more than 2 degrees Celsius would cause catastrophic changes. He said that there were a number of serious dangers we could possibly foresee within this century if we continued 'business as usual'. For example, a 2 degrees Celsius temperature rise would cause the Greenland ice sheets to disappear, creating changes in the ocean current balance and changes in the European temperate climate. If the temperature rise continued as predicted

by 2035, we would have lost the Himalayan glaciers, which supported 1.2 billion people in South East Asia leading to drought and mass migration. According to Mr. Banuri, 40 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide was currently produced every year and in order to stay under the maximum threshold of 2 degrees Celsius increase we must cut our emissions by half to 20 billion tonnes per annum over the next 100 years. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report suggested by 2100 the world's population would increase from 6.4 to 11 billion, GDP per capital would rise by \$ 30,000 and there would be 120 billion tonnes of carbon released into the atmosphere. Mr. Banuri noted, despite the Kyoto Protocol and G8 agreement of 5% and 50% decrease in carbon emissions, we needed a 95% reduction in our emissions to minimise climate catastrophes. In order to achieve our goal, he said, we must control population and economic growth. He declared the issue of economic growth as problematic because it posed difficult questions such as how much growth was enough and how could we bridge the ever-growing inequality between the North and South. For developing countries economic growth was the only way out of poverty, therefore, it was crucial to find a safer path to sustainable development without causing further havoc. Mr. Banuri underlined development in the South could only be achieved through large scale public initiatives, conventional regulations, green taxes, technology transfer and public sector investment programmes. A 1% tax on the richest 20% of the world's population invested into renewable energy in developing countries would enable them to be on the right track towards sustainable economic development.

"...we have two problems; economic growth and climate change. Let's not make it a race between economic growth and ecological catastrophe." Tariq Banuri

Question and Answer Period

In response to a question regarding the role of women in the process of protecting the climate, Ms. Melen said in Ukraine, women had a traditional role of caring for their children and grandchildren. This customary responsibility had naturally led women to be involved in environmental issues in order to ensure a good future for their families. However, Ms. Melen explained that everyone; men and women, rich and poor must participate in climate protection by working with their local governments and leaders. Similarly, influential decision-makers had been more effective as they received diverse ideas and feedback from their communities. This kind of involvement did not require a lot of financial resources. However, Ms. Melen pointed out that specific measures targeted toward mitigation of climate change was the role of the government because most of the general public could not afford to take these steps on their own.

In answering the question of Africa's development in the context of climate change, Mr. Banuri said economic development in Africa was imperative. However, he added, we needed to be able to improve the environment, while maintaining the growth momentum in the developing countries. Mr. Banuri stated that major global programmes of public sector investments were necessary to shift to renewable energy sources in order to achieve sustainable development. If we lived in a world with only developed countries, the problem of climate change would not be difficult to solve. Unfortunately, the vast majority of the world remained deprived of the very basic needs; hence, protecting the development momentum while shifting away from our addiction to carbon should be the ultimate goal.

Conference Closing Session

Friday, 7 September 2007

Closing Session

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Conference Room 4



Kiyoo Akasaka

KIYO AKASAKA, Under-Secretary-General, Communications and Public Information, indicated that after three days of deliberations on the impacts of climate change, it had become apparent that each and every individual had a responsibility to change their lifestyles and socio-economic practices to maintain a stable environment. He said the time to act had now come and encouraged participants to incorporate the knowledge gained in their homes, local communities and government policies to secure a better future. Mr. Akasaka further called on the NGO community to create both individual and collaborative action plans and carry them forward to advocate the use of energy efficient measures as a priority to secure sustainable development. He also outlined the importance of involving the youth in the environment issues as they would be affected the most by the impact of climate change. On that note, he invited four student panellists from the United Nations International School to present summaries of the seven roundtable sessions most of which were held simultaneously.

“Sustainability cannot be a matter of choice. Sustainability must be a habit. We need to educate as much as we need to educate each other on the many small, practical and effective ways in which, by respecting our planet we extend respect to ourselves.” Kiyoo Akasaka

The students subsequently imparted key messages from the discussions in these sessions:

- **Ivan Serezhim** presented the summaries for the *Climate Change: the Scientific Evidence* and *Indigenous Peoples, Culture and Traditional Knowledge* roundtables as prepared by Areil Rajwan and Mari Toivanen respectively;



Richard, Jordan, Phillip Kevin, Ivan Serezhim, Kiyoo Akasaka, Rachel Wong, Elke Esmeralda Dikoume

- **Phillip Kevin Machoka** read the summaries for the *Water Security and Climate Change* and *Coping with Climate Change: Best Land Use Practices* roundtables as prepared by Shiomi Kasahara and Tanya Naiken respectively;
- **Rachel Wong** read the summaries for the *The Economics and Politics of Energy and Climate Change* and *Streamlining the System* roundtables as prepared by Kevin Barnes-Ceeney and Kim Mullett respectively;
- **Elke Esmeralda Dikoume** provided the summary for the *Sustainable Development, Accountability & Ethical Standards* roundtable as jointly prepared by Yasmina Raihani and Colin Kinniburgh.

A short DVD comprising five Public Service Announcements produced by the Art Center College of Design exclusively for the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference and a short film on the *Cool Globes* initiative were screened for participants.

RICHARD JORDAN, Chair, 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, began his closing remarks by thanking the students of the United Nations International School and referring to their successful Conference on climate change held at UN Headquarters, in March 2007. He expressed his gratitude to the Department of Public Information and each of the co-chairs of the Conference Planning Sub-Committees for their hard work and collaboration throughout the planning of this event. He emphasised that while the Conference was nearing its end, the work of the NGO community in the climate change process was continuing. He referred to the Draft Conference Declaration, which would be agreed on by acclamation following his remarks and would be presented to the Secretary-General at a later date for his consideration. The Conference Declaration provided for an on-going consultation process and set of principles, which could be used by NGOs and others to carry their efforts forward, while continuing to look for solutions. He concluded by presenting his 'tais' (a gift from Dr. Xanana Gusmao, Former President of Timor-Leste), which he had been wearing throughout the Conference, to the Chair of the 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference, Ms. Shamina de Gonzaga. He said he wanted to start a tradition of continuity from the outgoing Conference Chair to the incoming signifying their abilities to unite the NGO community in a common goal and to fulfil the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.



Rajendra Pachauri, Kiyoo Akasaka and Ronald Smith

RAJENDRA PACHAURI, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stressed that the recent IPCC assessment affirmed a 90% probability that human activities inflicted greenhouse gas emissions causing increases in temperature. He said based on scientific observation and data, the world had now been presented with solid evidence that global warming was escalating. Findings of the 4th Assessment Report also revealed unusual changes in global rainfall patterns. Temperate regions continued to witness drastic increases in precipitation; for example last month the city of Mumbai, in India received 553 mm of rainfall in just 20 hours devastating both the infrastructures as well as human lives. Coupled with rise in temperature, the lack of adequate rainfall also caused water shortages particularly impacting regions of mid latitudes and dry tropics. An estimated 75-250 million people in Africa were projected to face severe water shortages and drought. The increasing temperature would also instigate sea level rise endangering small island states and coastal areas; the IPCC projected 18-59 cm rise in the 21st century. Sea level rise not only

risked flooding but also caused the intrusion of salty water, exacerbating clean water scarcity. Water desalination would consequently be needed in order to provide clean water and this costly process would further put extreme pressure on the already strained small island economies. Mr. Pachauri noted a 1.5-2.5 degrees Celsius increase over the current temperature would risk the extermination of 20-30% of the world's living beings. Additionally, such increases in temperature and humidity boosted rapid breeding of pests and micro-organisms causing serious disruptions to human health. Heat waves also affected the most vulnerable segments of society, i.e. the elderly; in 2003 Europe recorded around 30,000 heat wave related deaths.

Another consequence of global warming was a significant decline in agricultural productivity. Several analyses carried out by the IPCC argued that a 1-2 degrees Celsius increase in temperature tampered with food production in tropical areas, particularly South Asia and Africa. Mr. Pachauri noted that wheat was particularly sensitive to a slight increase in temperature and as major type of food its decline in production could lead to substantial global shortages.

Furthermore, economical growth added more pressure on food security. He noted an increase in people's incomes resulted in a shift from a vegetable diet to an animal protein diet, which demanded a large scale production of cereals and grains required by animal farmers. Growth in population coupled with decreased crop productivity further aggravated food insecurity. Countries with strong economics might be able to import large quantities of food for citizens; however, the poorest countries certainly could not afford the increasing market price to sustain their populations.

Mr. Pachauri said the impact of climate change were many-fold and projected serious implications on human security unless we stepped up our collective efforts to slow down its momentum. It was imperative to give priorities to the worst affected areas; however, what was most dangerous and who was most affected was a judgment call, which should not be based solely on the interests of the economically and politically powerful countries. He drew attention to Article II of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that called for rapid reduction of greenhouse gases in order to stabilise the environment. He said society must be able to adapt to climatic changes; communities must design better agricultural practices, water management systems, and early warning and disaster recovery mechanisms. Meanwhile, they also need to engage in carbon emissions reduction programmes and switch to energy efficient sources. He said technologies essential for mitigation were already at hand; however, appropriate policies were required to foresee their fair distribution across the globe. The funding required to bring about change could easily be generated by placing taxation on carbon or from GDP, for instance a 3% tax on global GDP would enable 445-535 parts per million of CO₂ stabilisation by the year 2030.

Mr. Pachauri congratulated NGOs associated with the Department of Public Information for their efforts in drafting the Conference Declaration document and reminded them that implementation of even three quarters of these objectives could effectively tackle a good proportion of the problem.

"...deciding what is dangerous is a value judgement; it is not something that you can determine on a scientific basis. So it is important to see who is going to be affected the worst ...and we should lay our benchmark for what is dangerous on the basis of the worst affected." Rajandra Pachauri

ROLLAND SMITH, Award Winning Broadcast Journalist and Poet, closed the conference with words of reflection. He presented poems which he wrote specially for the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference. One of the poems presented was Morning Walk (all the poems could be found on www.undpingoconference.org):

Moment of Reflection

Morning Walk

*Begin a walk, from where you live, beneath a blue-dream sky.
The morning is crisp, the afternoon is dry.
Now look around at nature knowing you will find her rhythm
in rock, and reason in her rhyme.*

*Look down upon your walking path, pace slowly, not too far.
See twinkling life below like a distant pulsing star.*

*Listen to its gentle tone, it's humming life so mild.
In tuning in to nature's sound, your spirit is beguiled.*

*You know it in the sparkle of trickling Tierra stream that
slides o'er stone and granite bead crowning Gaia queen.
You feel it in the wilting wind with all its names that please,
"Refreshing," "Cooling," "Gentle," special kinds of breeze.*

*You see it in the flora and rainbow of the flower as blossoms
burst with color, in a natural earthen bower.
You will know it in her breath when fragrance fills the air,
with tiny pollens of her heart, perfumes of nature's prayer.*

*Nature's essence is profound, her truth comes when you listen,
to the dew that's on the grass and hear the sunlight glisten.
Squinting crystals in the bright that hide when it is warm,
returning precious liquid life in shower and in storm.*

*There are many things to know, from the silence of her breach.
Hear the wise and warning shrill of the Owl's knowing screech.
Nature sounds speak many tongues to tell us there is trouble for
in the print of human kind, the future reeks as rubble.*

*Enjoy your walk, but do not dwell, upon the seeming bad, for
it will change your mind and thought and set your smile sad.
In all your walks, on many paths, even ones with flowers few
choose to find the joy of life, for nature lives with you.*

*If you choose we can empathetically appreciate all life and
acknowledge our influence on the earth and her species.*

Kiyo Akasaka, on behalf of the United Nations, declared the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference closed.

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Annex I

Media Report

The Media Subcommittee of the Conference Planning Committee, in cooperation with the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA), organised a press conference on Wednesday, 30 May 2007 in Room 226 at the United Nations Headquarters. Approximately 22 journalists, members of the NGO community and DPI staff attended the event moderated by Juan Carlos Brandt, Chief of the NGO Section. Richard Jordan, Chair of the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference opened the briefing by saying this year's DPI/NGO Conference was the first in 59 years to concentrate on environmental issue. He also revealed the topics set for all seven plenary sessions taking place during the three-day Conference. On the other hand, Michael Oppenheimer, Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs in the Woodrow School and Department of Geosciences, Princeton University briefed journalists on the findings of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He emphasised that humanity faced an extremely threatening problem due to escalating global warming and called for urgent action. The panellists then took a series of questions from journalists both on issues of climate change and the upcoming Conference. The press conference was followed by a small reception at the UNCA Club, where Tuyet Nguyen, President of UNCA offered welcoming remarks to show support for the Conference.

A couple of media advisories were prepared by the NGO Section, Department of Public Information (DPI). The first advisory issued on 25 May 2007 provided information on the DPI/NGO briefing (see above). Subsequent media advisory was released on 28 August 2007, to provide information on media arrangements, webcast services, and grounds-passes for participants. Both of these advisories were issued in English and French by the Meetings Coverage Section, News and Media Division, DPI. United Nations Radio interviewed speakers for their respective language services. The United Nations Chronicle special (September) issue on climate change offered a comprehensive overview of the crisis and highlighted the Conference. The Gateway to the United Nations System's Work on Climate Change (<http://www.un.org/climatechange/>) that provided access to environmental issues across the UN system advertised the Conference and conducted interviews with plenary speakers.

Sixty student journalists and editors from various colleges and universities were invited to maximise active youth participation on issues of climate change and promote further press coverage of the Conference. The Media Accreditation Liaison Unit, DPI, accredited these journalists to cover various plenary and roundtable sessions during the Conference. The NGO section also gave them an orientation tour around the United Nations Headquarters on Conference venues and security issues. In addition, interns at the NGO section, students from United Nations International School as well as university students assisted in summarising the seven roundtables presented at the closing session.

Interactive Media Report

The 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference website, www.undpingoconference.org, had been launched and continues to be updated with Conference outcomes and discussion through the Forum page. The site featured live webcasts of all plenary sessions, which were consequently archived and made available within the Webcast page. This was made possible by United Nations Television and the Webcast Section of DPI. The Internet Sub-Committee of the Conference Planning Committee worked with website designers and the NGO Section to make the website informative and user-friendly. Online participants were able to join the discussion by submitting comments and questions to the speakers via the Forum page. The Conference site also featured detailed Conference programme (including Arabic and French translations), special events, details of midday workshops, youth initiatives, Conference survey, online registration, useful links, Conference

Draft Declaration document, photo and video gallery, as well as other related media resources. Numerous civil society websites around the world linked to the Conference website during the months of August and September. Added features on this year's website included a complete list of speakers, their biographical note and presentations, easily navigable conference and midday workshops programmes and detailed information on additional events surrounding the Conference. The Conference website received 830, 446 hits over the course of five months (July-November) and approximately 91,000 requests were made to view various pages featured within the site. For more information on the website usage, please refer to Annex III section of the Final Report.

The Conference Survey carried out by the Department of Public Information showed this interactive website received even better scores than in previous years, with 44% of the respondents classifying it as "very good" and 50% as "good" (compared to last year's 16% as "very good" and 78% as "good").

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Student Journalists and their Affiliations

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Mostafa Agha	Curry College
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Aisha Al-Muslim	CUNY Lehman College
Heather L. Arnold	University of California, Santa Barbara
Silvano Ateka	United States International University, Nairobi
Azliana Aziz	University of Malaya, <i>The Star</i>
Narini Badalian	American University in Paris, <i>The Planet</i> , 'Perpetrator of a crime'
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Aleen Coe	Smith College, <i>The Sophian</i> , UN Discusses Climate Change
Maura Cook	Assumption College
Angela Curmi	CUNY Baruch College, <i>The Ticker</i> , 'New ideas aim to tackle global warming'
Ryan Patrick Daley	Bryant University, <i>The Archway</i> , 'Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All'
Vyera David	Dominican College
Marianne de Nazareth	University of Aarhus, <i>Deccan Herald</i> , 'It is in our hands to minimize extinction'
David Detling	Emerson College, <i>WEBN News Station</i>
Kimberly Dustman	Franklin and Marshall College
Farah El Sharif	Georgetown University
Fadi el Tofeili	University of Amsterdam
Summer Faruqi	Rutgers University, <i>World Affairs Review</i>
Richard Feindel	Emerson College, <i>Emerson Independent Video</i>
Kristen Fiani	New York University, <i>Washington Square News</i> , 'First World Pollution Strikes the Indigenous'
Dina Gusovsky	Pace University, <i>The Pace Press</i> , 'Streamlining the System'
Nyanduko K. Getui	United States International University, Nairobi
Jennifer Gomez	College Misericordia, <i>The Citizens Voice</i> , 'Misericordia Students Go Global at UN Conference'

Radeyah Hack	Stony Brook University, <i>The SB Independent</i>
Matthew Hannon	Luzerne County Community College
Maureen Hine	Stony Brook University, <i>The Statesman</i> , 'Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All'
Camilla Hsiung	Inside TC
Scott Hunter	University of Denver
Isaac Kaledzi	University of Ghana, Legon
Bernadette M. Kamau	United States International University, Nairobi
Bhavika Kaul	Rice University
Shafaq Khan	Freelancer
Nicola Kean	Victoria University of Wellington, <i>Salient Magazine</i>
Jeongha Kim	University of Washington, <i>Campus Life</i>
Rabia Kurd	Douglas College
Amanda LaBelle	Cornell University
Evelyn Lam	National University of Singapore, <i>The Campus Observer</i> , 'Student Reporters Attend Climate Conference' and 'Immediate Actions Required to Tackle Problems of Climate Change'
Alicia Magda	College Misericordia, <i>The Citizens Voice</i> , 'Misericordia Students Go Global at UN Conference'
Andrew Martinez	Brigham Young University, <i>Scroll</i>
Marina Masic	European Graduate School, <i>Media, Art and Social Change</i> , 'UN Climate Change: Conference Highlights'
Amani Massoud	University of Alexandria, <i>Electronic and Print Media</i>
Filip Matous	Brigham Young University, <i>Scroll</i>
Keith McGilvery	Emerson College, <i>WEBN News Station</i>
Michelle Michalos	CUNY Baruch College, <i>The Ticker</i> , 'UN: Thirty-Five years to Half-Extinction'
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Christine P. Nguyen	<i>AEP: The Environmental Monitor</i>
Andrew Ochieng	United States International University, Africa
Rose Odengo	Strathmore University, Jarida

Brenda Malowa Oduol	United States International University, Capital
Ogunjobi Oluwadamilola	United States International University, Nairobi
Sonia Parecadan	University of California, Davis
Marie Pineda	Seton Hall University
Ashley Porter	Emerson College, <i>Emerson Independent Video</i>
Ariel Rejwan	University of Toronto, 'The United Nations Action on Climate Change' and 'Avoiding Water Warfare in the Climate Change Area'
Neema Roshania	Rutgers University, <i>World Affairs Review</i>
Jon Schulter	Rider University, <i>On The Issues</i>
Vilashini Somiah	University of Malaya, UTV
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Veerle Vrindts	University Maastricht, <i>UN Students Organization</i> , 'Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All'
Neil Walsh	The New School for Social Research
Brooke Willardson	Brigham Young University, <i>Scroll</i>
Denise Zioboro	Cornell University

Annex II

Conference Participants Survey Report

Executive Summary

The 2007 Conference was attended by 1,726 participants, of which 355 completed the survey questionnaire, representing a response rate of 20%; similar to the response rate of previous years. Many participants praised the organisation of the Conference and some remarked on improvements made from past years. Overall, the Conference received positive evaluations, reflecting participants' satisfaction with the content of discussions, speakers and the opportunity to gather and interact to address issues of concern. An improvement over the years had been noticed regarding the usefulness of certain aspects of the Conference, such as *having access to UN literature* and *identifying practical solutions to common problem*. Plenary sessions and roundtables were deemed useful, with an average level of usefulness of 1.6 (where 1='very useful' and 5='not useful at all'), and an average of 86% 'useful' ratings. The 60th DPI/NGO Conference hosted 34 midday workshops, which represented an increase from 30 workshops last year. The majority of participants rated the workshops as very useful or useful. Some of the concerns expressed were that there should be larger participation from NGOs from developing countries. Respondents commended the participation of representatives from indigenous peoples and youth, and recommended that this continues to be promoted and increased.

Introduction

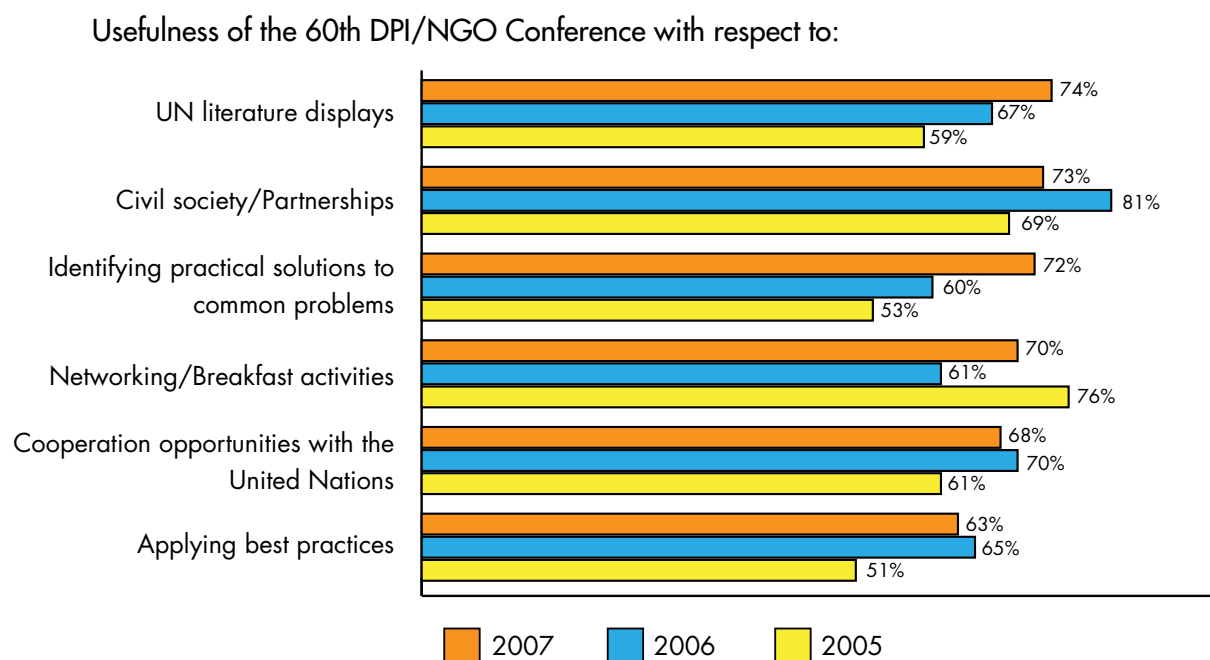
1. The UN Department of Public Information conducted a survey among the 1,726 NGO representatives attending the 60th Annual Conference.
2. A total of 355 participants completed the questionnaire, representing a response rate of approximately 20% in line with response rates of previous years. Also, as in previous years, the vast predominance of participants originated from the United States and accounted for 66% of the respondents. Altogether, 89% of the respondents came from developed countries.

2007 Survey Findings

3. Overall, respondents were pleased with the Conference and expressed their satisfaction with the content of discussions, speakers and the opportunity to gather and interact to address pressing issues. Comments made reflected a general satisfaction with the event, without ignoring the need for continuous improvements.
4. Regarding the usefulness of certain aspects of the Conference, there has been mostly an improvement over the years. The graph on the following page shows the ratings in the past three conferences.

Plenary Sessions and Roundtables

5. The plenary sessions and roundtables were deemed useful, with an average level of usefulness of 1.6 (where 1='very useful' and 5='not useful at all'), and an average of 86% 'useful' ratings for all sessions and roundtables. The three most positive ratings were given to *Roundtable 5: The Economics and Politics of Energy and Climate Change...* which was found "useful" by 93% of respondents, followed by *Roundtable 7: Sustainable Development, Accountability and Ethical Standards...* and *Roundtable 2: Indigenous People, Culture and Traditional Knowledge...* both with 92% approval as being "useful" for NGOs, as can be seen in the table on the following page

Graph 1: Respondents who classifies each aspect as 'very useful' or 'useful' (percentage)**Table 1: Respondents per level of usefulness of plenary sessions and roundtables (percentage)**

Usefulness of Plenary sessions & Roundtables (percentage)	Useful*	Adequate	Not useful
Roundtable 5: The Economics and Politics of Energy and Climate Change...	93	5	1
Roundtable 7: Sustainable Development, Accountability and Ethical Standards...	92	6	3
Roundtable 2: Indigenous Peoples, Culture and Traditional Knowledge ...	92	6	2
Roundtable 3: Water Security and Climate Change	89	10	1
Roundtable 6: Streamlining the System	86	12	2
Closing session	82	12	6
Roundtable 4: Coping with Climate Change: Best Land Use Practices...	81	15	4
Opening session	81	14	5
Roundtable 1: Climate Change: The Scientific Evidence...	78	16	6

*Respondents who rated the sessions/roundtables either as "very useful" or "useful"

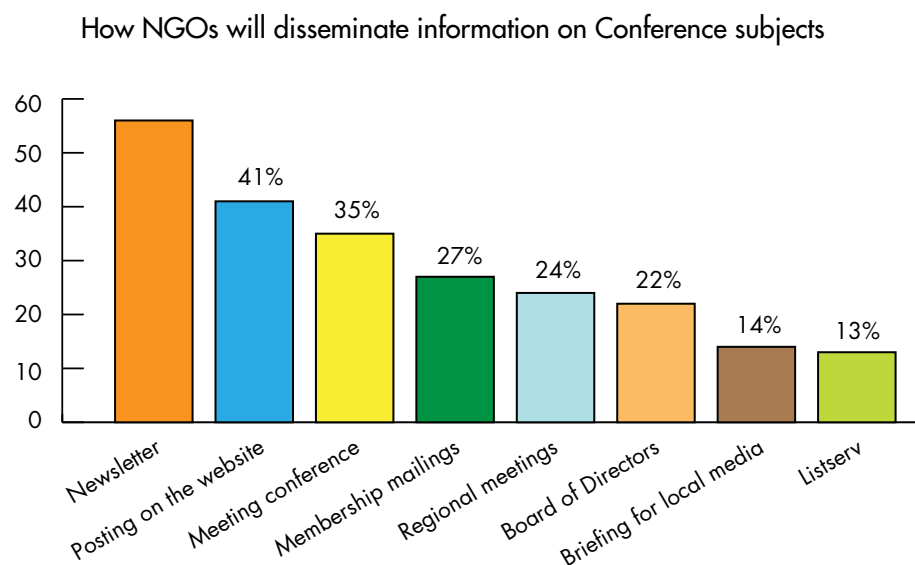
Midday NGO Interactive Workshops and Interactive Dialogues

6. The 60th DPI/NGO Conference hosted 34 midday workshops during the three-day event. In general, the workshops received a positive evaluation from participants. On average¹, 78% of survey respondents said the workshops were very useful or useful (compared to 87% the previous year); and the average level of usefulness was 1.86 (where 1='very useful' and 5='not useful at all'). The five workshops evaluated by the most respondents who rated these sessions are listed below. The figures represent the percentage² of respondents who rated each workshop as "very useful" or "useful", and are as follows: *Caring after the storm: The Impact of Climate Change on Children...* (84%), *Climate Change and the Mind-Body-Spirit Connection...* (82%). Similarly, *Youth education and climate change* (78%), *Human Rights and Good Practices in the Face of Climate Change* (74%), and *Faith Responses to Climate Change* (68%).
7. In terms of the overall organisation of workshops, 80% of the participants rated it as "very useful" or "useful."

Conference Information

8. Information about the Conference was obtained from multiple sources, mainly the DPI/NGO Section Website (57% of responses) and the Conference Interactive Website (39% cent), followed by mailings and Listserv (15% each). "Other sources" used represented 27% of the information outlets.
9. The interactive features of the Conference website were familiar to about half of the respondents. It should be noted that the quality of this interactive website received even better scores than in previous years, with 44% of these respondents classifying it as "very good" and 50% as "good" (compared to last year's 16% as "very good" and 78% as "good").
10. NGO representatives stated information received during this year's Conference would be disseminated among their constituents mainly through newsletters, their websites and meetings. As could be seen in graph 2, this result did not show any difference from the findings in previous years.

Graph 2: Selected means that will be used by respondents and their NGOs to disseminate information on subjects discussed at the Conference (percentage)



1 Average calculated based on 33 workshops

2 The presented percentages were based on an average number of 37 responses per workshop

NGO/DPI Executive Committee

11. Among the respondents, 55% declared that they were familiar with the work of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee throughout the year, showing no significant change from the 56% declared last year.
12. When asked about the quality of the work of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee in delivering pre-Conference information, 76% of the respondents agreed it was either 'very good' or 'good'. The organization of the Conference reception received a positive rating by an overwhelming 91% of the respondents.
13. The Executive Committee's Website was known by 49% of the respondents. Its quality was classified as "very good" or "good" by 74% of them, a decrease compared to last year's 100% positive reviews.

Logistics

14. As in previous years, concerns regarding inadequate Conference and communication facilities were voiced. More specifically, participants requested simultaneous interpretation for sessions. Also, due to the high level of importance and interest in the topics discussed, sufficient time for questions and answers should always be secured. While participants praised the improvement in the punctuality of sessions, delays were still observed, mainly caused by technical difficulties, especially with the functioning of projected presentations and microphones, resulting in waste of time, and hence such problems should be prevented. In addition, the capacity of the rooms was often not enough for the number of interested participants.
15. A few respondents requested floor plans, as they were not always able to locate meeting rooms easily. Some participants also expressed their frustration with the on-site registration process, while some actually praised it. Suggestions were made to have one consolidated schedule of all Conference events available on the website and at the Conference itself.

Issues Raised and Suggestions for Future DPI/NGO Conferences

16. Many participants praised the organisation of the Conference. Nevertheless, some of the concerns expressed were that there should be larger participation from NGOs from developing countries. They commended the participation of representatives from indigenous peoples and youth, and recommended that this continues to be promoted and increased, while the reading of reports by youth received negative reviews. Also, some respondents raised the issue that some speakers did not take into account diverse cultural and political perspectives.
17. Some comments on the substance of the discussions indicated that participants expected more focus on specific issues of climate change, "controversial topics", practical solutions and partnerships. Moreover, there was sometimes not enough connection between the title of the workshop and the actual content. Participants also pointed out that some sessions had too many speakers, which, at times, resulted in a repetition of the information presented.
18. The most popular suggested themes for next year's conference were *Youth* (96% of suggestions), *Environment* (81 per cent) and *Human rights and Democracy* (18%).

Annex III

Conference Website Usage Statistics

Figure 1.1 Usage Summary for www.undpingoconference.org [Generated by awffull Version 3.7.1]

Website: www.undpingoconference.org

Summary Period: Last 5 Months

Generated on: 15 November 2007

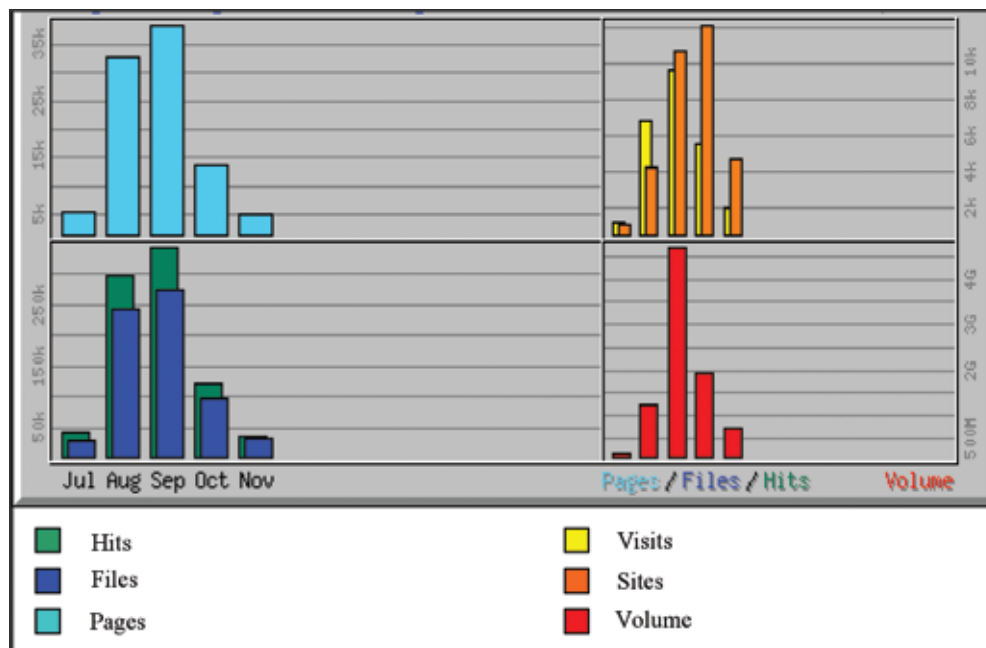


Figure 1.2 Usage Summary by Month [Generated by awffull Version 3.7.1]

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Average				Monthly Average					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	Volume	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits
November	2954	2598	341	136	4335	631.62 Mb	32495	28587	3752	1500
October	4138	3314	436	178	12059	1.87 Gb	120007	96113	12672	5189
September	11433	9042	1272	314	10561	4.66 Gb	343006	271283	38186	9420
August	9552	7777	1040	210	3891	1.13 Gb	296125	241109	32257	6537
July	2772	1831	302	48	581	93.12 Mb	38813	25634	4234	685
Totals						8.37 Gb	830446	662726	91101	23331

Survey Guide

Hits represent the total number of requests made to the server during the given time period (month, day, hour etc..).

Files represent the total number of hits (requests) that actually resulted in something being sent back to the user. Not all hits will send data, such as 404-Not Found requests and requests for pages that are already in the browsers cache.

Sites is the number of unique IP addresses/hostnames that made requests to the server. Care should be taken when using this metric for anything other than that. Many users can appear to come from a single site, and they can also appear to come from many ip addresses so it should be used simply as a rough gauge as to the number of visitors to your server.

Visits occur when some remote site makes a request for a *page* on your server for the first time. As long as the same site keeps making requests within a given timeout period, they will all be considered part of the same **Visit**. If the site makes a request to your server, and the length of time since the last request is greater than the specified timeout period (*default is 30 minutes*), a new **Visit** is started and counted, and the sequence repeats. Since only *pages* will trigger a visit, remotes sites that link to graphic and other non- page URLs will not be counted in the visit totals, reducing the number of *false* visits.

Pages are those URLs that would be considered the actual page being requested, and not all of the individual items that make it up (such as graphics and audio clips). Some people call this metric *page views* or *page impressions*, and defaults to any URL that has an extension of **.htm**, **.html** or **.cgi**.

