



Welcome to IADL,
International Association of Democratic Lawyers

U.N. ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

In Consultative Status With ECOSOC; Represented at UNESCO, and UNICEF

www.iadllaw.org

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Message from the Permanent Representative in New York

Professor Lennox S. Hinds

As the Bureau Members meet in Costa Rica, we encourage you to carefully review the upcoming U.N. events listed as page nine of the Bulletin and request that you identify those events on which you would like reports or additional information. Our representations in New York, Vienna, and Geneva will make every effort to facilitate obtaining such reports or covering such events if time and resources permit.

We continue to acknowledge the tremendous contribution by Alternative Representative Claire Gilchrist in preparing and organizing this U.N. Activities Bulletin with the able assistance of Law Student Interns. We thank the representatives in Vienna & Geneva for their contributions.

Although I cannot be with you in person in Costa Rica, I wish you and the Bureau a safe and productive meeting.

CURRENT EVENTS

Durban +10

On September 22, 2011, IADL intern Christopher Roberts and US law professor and IADL delegate Sherrie Russell-Brown will attend the United Nations General Assembly's one day high-

level meeting in New York to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Christopher and Sherrie will also attend the Durban +10 Coalition three day civil society conference from September 19-21 leading up to the high-level meeting. The IADL is a sponsor in the Durban +10 Coalition, a peoples' and NGO initiative to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance. The IADL had a delegation at the Conference in Durban, South Africa in 2001.

Stay tuned for a report-back on this event in the next U.N. Activities Bulletin. For more information on the high-level meeting, please consult <http://www.un.org/en/ga/durbanmeeting2011/>. For information on the Durban +10 Coalition, see www.durban10coalition.com.

Impending GA Vote on Palestinian Statehood

During its sixty-sixth session, currently on-going, the General Assembly will be voting on Palestinian statehood. IADL alternate representative Claire and intern Chris will be attempting to cover the debates. The NGO branch has indicated that NGO representatives may be barred from entering the assembly room. We continue to follow up and monitor the situation, and we will attempt to gain access to observe the meeting by all measures available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Tenth Session of the ASP

The Tenth Session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) meeting is scheduled to be held in New York from December 12 – 21, 2011. Registration is fast approaching. Any IADL member who may be interested in attending should contact Claire Gilchrist by November 1st so we can accredit you.

For more information about the ASP, please visit the website of the CICC: <http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org/?mod=asp> and the website of the ICC: <http://www2.icc-cpi.int/Menus/ASP/>.

Rio +20 Conference

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 4 – 6, 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Conference will focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

To stay in touch with the Rio+20 preparatory process, interested persons can join (like) the Rio+20 Facebook page Rio+20 at <http://www.facebook.com/UNRioplus20>, follow Rio +20 on Twitter at http://twitter.com/#!/UN_Rioplus20, and or subscribe to the Rio +20 newsletter at <http://www.uncsd2012.org>.

More Upcoming Events

For more upcoming events, please consult the U.N. event calendars at the end of the Bulletin.

ICTR NEWS

IADL Granted as Amicus Curiae in Transfer Case

In February, Beth drafted the IADL motion requesting leave to appear as an *amicus curiae* in the case of the Accused Jean-Bosco Uwinkindi, who was arrested and charged with genocide and

crimes against humanity under the ICTR Statute. The Prosecution had requested, in late 2010, under Rule 11*bis* that the case be transferred to Rwanda.

Consistent with previous IADL resolutions opposing the transfer of cases to Rwanda on the grounds that there is no fair trial, in contravention of the ICCPR, the ICTR Statute and other international instruments, IADL filed an *amicus curiae* brief in March 2011.

Beth drafted the brief, with assistance from IADL President Jeanne Mirer, Permanent Representative Lennox S. Hinds, as well as Professor Peter Erlinder and Andrea M. Plaumbo, on behalf of the International Humanitarian Law Institute in Minnesota, United States.

The Trial Chamber rendered a decision in June 2011, granting the Prosecution's request for transfer. The Decision is now being appealed by the Defence. The Trial Chamber's decision is a significant departure from previous Trial and Appeal Chamber decisions which rejected the Prosecution's request for transfer in previous cases on fair trial grounds. Its decision was based largely on legislated promises of fair trial and the implementation of a monitoring system through the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

As we argued in our brief, neither monitoring nor Rwanda legislation can guarantee fair trial and protection of the rights of the Defence on-the-ground in the current political climate of the President Paul Kagame's RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Front) Government. This is illustrated by the Government of Rwanda's conduct in the Victoire Ingabire case, as well as by the fact that the case of Professor Erlinder is still open and has not been dismissed by the Government of Rwanda.

The IADL *amicus curiae* brief will be available on the IADL web-site.

IADL Sends Open Letter and Resolution Against Transfers to ICTR President Dennis Byron

In February, Beth also drafted an Open Letter to the ICTR President Dennis Byron on IADL's Opposition to the Prosecution's Request to Refer the *Uwinkindi* Case to Rwanda, which was accompanied by a resolution. These were approved in principle by the Dakar Bureau. The resolution and letter were communicated to U.N. Secretary General Ban-ki Moon, Hassan Bubacar Jallow, ICTR Chief Prosecution, Claver Sindayigaya, Lead Counsel for Uwinkindi as well as Human Rights Watch and the International Association of Criminal Defence Attorneys (both of whom also filed *amicus curiae* briefs in the *Uwinkindi* case).

ICTR Colleagues Attend Dakar Bureau Meeting

In February, Beth invited a number of ICTR colleagues to the IADL Bureau meeting and activity in Dakar. Maitre Sadikou Ayo Alao, Founder and President of GERDDES (Study and Research Group on Democracy and Economic and Social Development in Africa), a civil society organization prominent in West Africa attended IADL's activity.

Dallaire Speaks on Rwanda and Child Soldiers at US Law School

May 24, 2011, New York

On May 24, 2011, Claire attended a presentation by Lt. General Romeo Dallaire on his initiative in the Canadian Parliament to end the use of child soldiers worldwide. General Dallaire was the Force Commander of the United Nations Mission for Rwanda in 1994 and has testified as a witness against accused at the ICTR. Dallaire continued to promote his view of a government-led conspiracy to murder 1.2 million Tutsis in Rwanda, which the ICTR has not found credible evidence for.

The event was sponsored by the New York City Bar Council on International Affairs and the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice. Approximately 50 people were in attendance.

NGO NEWS

At Committee on NGOs, Cuba Objects to IFES Application for Consultative Status

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, a standing committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), convened for its resumed session from May 16 – 24, 2011. IADL intern Sarah Matari was in attendance.

The Committee was scheduled to review new applications of over 117 NGOs seeking consultative status with ECOSOC, and roughly 216 applications of NGOs whose acceptance had been deferred in previous sessions. Member states presented questions to the floor and the Secretariat regarding the NGO applications.

There was debate between Cuba and the United States over whether the US-based International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) met the criterion for consultative status. The Cuban delegate questioned why IFES targeted the electoral process of Cuba but had not addressed the inadequacies of the electoral system of the United States, in particular the 2002 presidential election, where questionable activity had taken place in the state of Florida. The Cuban delegate also highlighted that IFES had accepted a 136,000 USD grant from the United States to prepare a 166-page manual on how to best hold democratic elections in Cuba without Cuba requesting such a manual.

For more information on the resumed session, please see the Committee's report at <http://csonet.org/content/documents/e201132partii.pdf>.

REPORT ON U.N. ACTIVITIES IN NEW YORK

Jeanne Mirer and Lennox Hinds Speak out on NATO War Crimes Against Africans

On July 27th, 2011, Jeanne and Lennox spoke as part of panel of legal experts at a forum on "War

Crimes and other Violations of International Law against Africans”, which was a first step towards and International Peoples Tribunal to prosecute the United States, NATO, and collaborating western interests. Panel members discussed NATO’s continued and illegal assault on Libya and other African nations and peoples. The forum was held at the Harlem State Office Bldg Gallery in Harlem New York. In addition to Jeanne and Lennox, the panel included Roger Wareham, Esq., International Human Rights Attorney and Secretary General, International Association Against Torture and King Downing, Esq., Former National Coordinator ACLU Campaign Against Racial Profiling.

At Conference, Dialogue on Disability Rights Shifts from Protecting Civil Rights to Promoting Integration

US law student Gabriel Armas-Cardona was in attendance at the Fourth Session of the Conference of States Parties for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held from September 7 – 9, 2011, New York. During the session, member states promoted what they have done for people with disabilities, acknowledged what needed to be done, and pushed recommendations for the future. Unfortunately, member states’ recommendations were vague and unsubstantial.

The event began with approximately three hours of signatory statements regarding what each individual country had done to promote the rights of people with disabilities. The content of the statements focused primarily on experimental projects that governments were conducting to include people with disabilities into mainstream society while still giving them special services to counteract the negative effects of their disability. A few member states discussed specific laws that had been passed recently in their countries. However they did not discuss the effectiveness of those laws. Understandably, most of the language at this stage of the session was aspirational with little hard evidence demonstrating improvement.

After the statements, the discussions were more productive with states and NGOs often honestly

inquiring about successful programs or how states surmounted a particular obstacle. From a rights based perspective, it seemed that the dialogue is no longer around ensuring the civil rights of people with disabilities but with promoting their integration into society. The idea is that ratifying states have already done the groundwork of creating legislation that legally protects the rights of people with disabilities and now more work needs to be done on developing their social opportunities.

This alternative perspective undoubtedly has merit but it is a little at odds with the traditional human rights perspective as it positions big business as a key ally. A key element to full integration for people with disabilities is employment, so ensuring that medium to large employers hire people with disabilities is essential. This is true in both the domestic and international jurisdictions.

On the international level, there was a strong push to include specific disability aspects into larger international development programs. The Special Rapporteur Chalklen pushed specifically for recipient countries to require integrated disability aspects just like they do for gender from donor states. These specific aspects should be created with the consultation of domestic Disabled Person Organizations (DPOs). Throughout his speech (and others) were the twin themes that DPOs must be involved in order to make sure the programs are effective as well as developing the next generation of leaders from people with disabilities.

Someone pointed out that the U.N. itself has done a lot to promote gender equality and, at least in the conference room at the fourth session, there were roughly equal numbers of men and women, but the U.N. has done little to promote leaders among people with disabilities and none of the organizers of the fourth session had disabilities. The number of recent natural disasters was cited to as both a difficulty and an opportunity to implement these new development policies.

Unfortunately most of the recommendations coming from state parties were more vacuous than substantial. "Donor support should be long term and consistent" was unrealistically demanded multiple

times. "An interconnected network of actors is required to reach the goal" was stated multiple times without any details given. While others called for "more data" while not specifying what data and "more institutional capacity" without clarifying what that capacity would involve and what would its purpose be. There were some more concrete recommendations from NGOs, such as Sight Saver's Diane Mulligan asking states to examine their budgets to calculate exactly how much money is being used to promote people with disabilities and whether that was enough.

President Jeanne Mirer Speaks at Forum on Rosenberg Case

In June, Beth attended a forum at New York University entitled "With Justice for Whom? From the Rosenberg Case to the War on Terror," sponsored by the National Committee to Reopen the Rosenberg Case, where IADL President Jeanne Mirer was a featured speaker. More than a half century ago, at the height of the anti-communist McCarthy period in the U.S., Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed for allegedly passing sensitive information to the Soviet Union.

At Forum, NAIPC Calls on U.N. to Address Ineligibility of Indigenous Nations for 'Developing Country' Status

Sarah Matari was in attendance at the Tenth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from May 16 – 27, 2011, in New York.

The North America Indigenous Peoples' Caucus (NAIPC) called on the United Nations to address an often overlooked issue, i.e. the inability of indigenous nations and groups to qualify as developing countries. The NAIPC called on the UN to address the disadvantages that stem from this issue and suggests that the UN reform mandates to be more inclusive of indigenous persons.

The NAIPC also highlighted that the poverty and despair with which indigenous groups currently suffer is the result of colonialism, which has had direct effects on loss of indigenous culture, and high

rates of obesity, depression, and substance abuse in indigenous populations.

To highlight but a few of the other crucial subjects discussed, NGOs called on countries to assist indigenous persons to combat issues that are not well publicized such as suicide attempts by young indigenous persons and violence against indigenous persons who foster dialogue on controversial subjects, like female genital mutilation.

Member state delegations delivered statements highlighting the progress countries have made to alleviate the hardships indigenous communities endure. The Mexican delegation discussed Mexico's National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Persons and the ways in which it aims to reduce the equality gap by facilitating better access to education and by educating indigenous persons on the importance of maintaining good health and proper nutrition.

Australia reported on several initiatives and declared that the Australian initiative to grant early childhood pre-school education to all indigenous two-year olds by 2013 is achievable, as is suggested by current statistics. In addition, Australia's National Indigenous Language Policy was created to preserve and support the existence of indigenous languages and continuously works with indigenous communities on this effort.

For more on the Tenth Session, please see http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_tenth.html.

At 66th Session, Disarmament Commission Fails to Make Recommendations Despite Mandate

Sarah attended the Disarmament Commission's sixty-sixth session from April 4 – 21 in New York. At the conclusion of its session, the Commission adopted "recommendations" from its working groups regarding 1) achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, 2) elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade, and

3) practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.

Despite the label “recommendations,” the reports submitted by the working groups made no recommendations. The delegates debated whether to edit the title and language of the “recommendations” section of the report to reflect the absence of any recommendations. In the end, the Commission decided to maintain the title “Conclusions and recommendations”, in an effort to remain consistent with previous reports, where the Commission had not made any recommendations, but nevertheless included the word “recommendations” in the title.

Several delegations highlighted that it is the mandate of the Commission to make recommendations to the General Assembly and omitting this word from the title may represent an unauthorized change in the Commission's mandate.

For a complete report of the Commission’s sixty-sixth session, please visit <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/dc/papers11/A-66-42.pdf>.

55th CSW Focuses on Women and Girls’ Access to Science and Technology

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women convened from February 22 to March 4, 2011 in New York. IADL alternate representative Claire Gilchrist, US law professor Sherrie Russell-Brown, and intern Sarah Matari were in attendance on behalf of the IADL. The priority theme of this year's session was women and girls' access to science and technology education, training and work. For the official report and other outcome documents of the fifty-fifth session, please visit <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm#agreed>.

Sherrie Russell-Brown observed a number of side events to the Commission, organized by country delegations and NGOs, including “Women’s and Children’s Rights: Making the Connection,” “Stopping Sexual Violence Against Children

Through International Standards,” and the NY launch of the Inter-Agency Working Group “Field Manual on Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings.”

NGO ‘Sakhi for South Asian Woman’ Discusses Barriers to Freedom from Violence

On February 24, Sarah Matari attended a side event hosted by New York-based NGO Sakhi for South Asian Women where a panel discussed the barriers women face in attempting to remove themselves from situations of domestic violence. Presenters highlighted barriers such as the desire of women to meet expectations stemming from social, cultural and religious affiliations and the inability of women to financially support themselves and their children.

In response to a question posed to the panel regarding how to best educate men on the issue of domestic violence, Sakhi for South Asian Women reported that although they lacked adequate funds to target and educate male populations, the organization contacted male community and religious leaders and urged these male leaders to discuss the consequences of domestic violence and the ways in which it negatively effects families and communities at large.

NGO ‘BPW International’ Promotes Grant

Programs for Women Pursuing Science and Math

Sarah Matari also attended a side event hosted by BPW International on women's access to employment. Panelists combated the misperception that women are better suited to pursue employment in fields that are unrelated to math or science. Statistics were offered to demonstrate that women are as capable as men in their ability to succeed at math and science related work. This finding was supported by researching and conducting data on the primary education test scores of girls in math and science subjects. Though women are equally as capable of succeeding in math and science fields, women are still severely underrepresented in these fields.

Panelists discussed how to best integrate girls and women into math and science fields and discussed fellowship and grant programs that aim to support women who pursue science or math related work.

REPORT ON U.N. ACTIVITIES IN VIENNA

NGO Committee on the Status of Women Update

Permanent Representative in Vienna Evelyn Dürmayer continues to represent the IADL in the Committee on the Status of Women. She attended three meetings since the last bureau meeting, on May 5, June 9, and September 15, 2011. At the June 9, 2011 meeting, she presented the Committee with a report on the Dakar Bureau Meeting.

The agenda of the May 5 and June 9 encounters had the following items on the list: revision of the Statutes of the Committee, although this frame is customary and not required and is based on Austrian law. A new body was also elected. Regular themes are Gender medicine, violence against women and children and preparing a statement for the session of the Commission.

Alliance on Crime Prevention Update

The Alliance on Crime prevention and criminal justice did not have any meetings during this term.

Alternate Representative Lilian Hofmeister Interviews Omar Al Rawi on Being Muslim in Vienna

In addition to the legal salons which started in the summer 2010, we had a successful evening where Lilian Hofmeister, the alternate representative at the UN Center in Vienna interviewed Austrian Muslim Leader Omar Al Rawi on "Veil and Scarf" on the place of Muslims in Vienna. A flyer for the event is attached in annex to the Bulletin.

Upcoming Events in Vienna

Later this year Gabriele Matzner-Holzer, a former Austrian ambassador to Tunisia, will make an introductory report on the so-called Arab Spring followed with a discussion due in November after the elections planned for October.

Marjorie Cohn, President of the National Lawyer's Guild, will be in Vienna and participate at a panel discussion at the Human Rights Film Festival (5- 8 December probably) and at classes at the Law Faculty and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of the University of Vienna (chair: Manfred Nowak).

REPORT ON U.N. ACTIVITIES IN GENEVA

IADL and JALISA Host Event on Nuclear Energy, Environment, and the Human Right to Peace

In parallel with the 17th session of the Human Rights Council on June 9, 2011, the IADL, JALISA and other peace organizations hosted a side event on "The Effects of Nuclear Energy on the Environment and the Human Right to Peace." Secretary-General Osamu Niikura assisted in pulling the event together including written materials.

The event was part of a global campaign for peace that members have conducted since their decision in Sophia in 2006. As Japan continued to suffer from its nuclear power plant disaster, two Japanese, one on behalf of the IADL and the other on behalf of JALISA spoke the truth about the event and members' enduring political will to keep going on the global campaign.

Mr. Yorio Shiokawa for the IADL spoke on the Realities of the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant's Accident. Mr. Jun Sasamoto, Secretary General of JALISA, spoke on Nuclear Power Plants and the Human Right to Peace.

For more information on the event, please contact Osamu Niikura.

UPCOMING UN EVENTS & CONFERENCES

September – December 2011

Calendar of Conferences and Meetings



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Meetings by Venue

Venue	Meeting Title	From-To
▼ New York		
▶ In continuous session or meeting as required		
▶ Meetings continued from previous month		
▼ September 2011		
- New York	UNDP and UNFPA, Executive Board, second regular session	6 - 9 September
- New York	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	6 September - 16 December
- New York	Committee on Conferences, substantive session (5 days)	6 - 12 September
- New York	Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Fourth session	7 - 9 September
- New York	UNICEF, Executive Board, second regular session**	12 - 15 September
- New York	General Assembly, sixty-sixth session	13 September - December
- New York	High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases	19 - 20 September
- New York	High-level meeting of the General Assembly on Desertification	20 September
- New York	One-day plenary event to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance	22 September
- New York	Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	23 September
- New York	General Assembly, sixty-sixth session, Fourth Committee	29 September - 10 November
- New York	General Assembly, sixty-sixth session, First Committee	30 September - 1 November



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▼ October 2011

New York	General Assembly, sixty-sixth session, Second Committee	3 October - 13 December
New York	General Assembly, sixty-sixth session, Third Committee	3 October - 23 November
New York	General Assembly, sixty-sixth session, Fifth Committee	3 October - 23 December
New York	General Assembly, sixty-sixth session, Sixth Committee	3 October - 10 November
New York	United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, second regular session	28 October
New York	Plenary meeting of the General Assembly to launch the International Year of Cooperatives in 2012	31 October
New York	United Nations Staff Pension Committee (1 meeting)	October/November



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▼ November 2011

New York	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Special Meeting in Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	29 November
New York	Investments Committee (1 day)	November
New York	United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities (1 day)	November
New York	Disarmament Commission, organizational session (1 or 2 days)**	November/December
New York	Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, forty-fourth session (2 days)	November



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▼ December 2011

·New York	UN Women, Executive Board, second regular session	5 - 7 December
·New York	General Assembly, fifth high-level dialogue on financing for development	7 - 8 December
·New York	Fifth meeting of the States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	8 December
·New York	Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	12 - 21 December
·New York	Second Informal Intersessional Meeting in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development**	15 - 16 December
·New York	Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (1 meeting)	December



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▼ Geneva

▼ September 2011

·Geneva	UNCTAD, Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget (Technical Cooperation), fifty-ninth session	5 - 7 September
·Geneva	United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Board of Trustees, sixteenth session	12 - 16 September
·Geneva	Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, fifteenth session	12 - 23 September
·Geneva	UNCTAD, Trade and Development Board, fifty-eighth session	12 - 23 September
·Geneva	Human Rights Council, eighteenth session	12 - 30 September
·Geneva	ITU, Council	15 - 25 September
·Geneva	Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, sixth session	19 - 23 September
·Geneva	Committee on the Rights of the Child, fifty-eighth session	19 September - 7 October
·Geneva	WIPO, Assemblies of Member States	26 September - 5 October
·Geneva	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention	28 - 30 September



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▼ Geneva

▼ October 2011

Geneva	UNHCR, Executive Committee, sixty-second session	3 - 7 October
Geneva	Human Rights Council, Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, twelfth session	3 - 14 October
Geneva	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, fiftieth session	3 - 21 October
Geneva	Human Rights Council, intersessional forum on economic, social and cultural rights (Social Forum), fourth session	3 - 5 October
Geneva	Human Rights Committee, pre-sessional Working Group on Communications, one hundred and third session	10 - 14 October
Geneva	Committee on the Rights of the Child, pre-sessional working group, fifty-ninth session	10 - 14 October
Geneva	UNCTAD, Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, twenty-seventh session	11 - 14 October
Geneva	Ad Hoc Committee of the Human Rights Council on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards in the Field of Racism, fourth session	17 - 28 October
Geneva	Human Rights Committee, one hundred and third session	17 October - 4 November
Geneva	United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, Board of Trustees, thirty-fifth session	17 - 21 October
Geneva	Thirteenth meeting of the States Parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	18 October
Geneva	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, pre-sessional working group	24 - 28 October
Geneva	Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, seventh session	24 - 28 October
Geneva	Human Rights Council, Intergovernmental Working Group on Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, ninth session	31 October - 11 November
Geneva	Committee against Torture, forty-seventh session	31 October - 25 November
Geneva	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, Board of Trustees, thirty-fifth session	31 October - 3 November



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▼ Geneva

▼ November 2011

-Geneva	Human Rights Council, Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, ninety-fifth session	2 - 11 November
-Geneva	ILO, Governing Body and its committees, three hundred and twelfth session	3 - 18 November
-Geneva	Committee on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, first session	8 - 11 November
-Geneva	Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	9 - 10 November
-Geneva	Thirteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	11 November
-Geneva	Human Rights Council, open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development, twelfth session	14 - 18 November
-Geneva	Committee against Torture, Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, fifteenth session	14 - 18 November
-Geneva	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, forty-seventh session	14 November - 2 December
-Geneva	Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	14 - 25 November
-Geneva	Human Rights Council, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, sixty-second session	16 - 25 November
-Geneva	UNCTAD, Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, sixtieth session	21 - 23 November
-Geneva	Human Rights Council, Working Group on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, fourteenth session	28 November - 2 December
-Geneva	Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, fortieth session	28 November - 7 December
-Geneva	Security Council, Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission established pursuant to Security Council resolution 692 (1991), seventy-second session	29 November - 1 December
-Geneva	Annual meeting of States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	November



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▼ Geneva

▼ December 2011

- Geneva	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, pre-sessional working group, forty-eighth session	5 - 9 December
- Geneva	Seventh Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction	5 - 23 December
- Geneva	Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	6 December
- Geneva	Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, twenty-second session	7 - 9 December
- Geneva	Human Rights Council, Forum on Minority Issues, fourth session	15 - 16 December



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▼ Vienna

▶ Meetings continued from previous month

▼ September 2011

- Vienna	IAEA, Board of Governors	12 - 16 September
- Vienna	IAEA, General Conference, fifty-fifth session	19 - 23 September
- Vienna	IAEA, Board of Governors	26 September



View Meetings:

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▼ **October 2011**

·Vienna	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group A and informal/expert meetings, fortieth session	3 - 5 October
·Vienna	UNCITRAL: Working Group II (Arbitration and Conciliation), fifty-fifth session	3 - 7 October
·Vienna	UNCITRAL: Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce), forty-fifth session	10 - 14 October
·Vienna	UNCITRAL: Working Group I (Procurement), twenty-first session	17 - 21 October
·Vienna	International Narcotics Control Board, one hundred and second session	24 October - 11 November
·Vienna	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, thirty-seventh session	24 - 28 October
·Vienna	UNCITRAL: Working Group V (Insolvency Law), fortieth session	31 October - 4 November
·Vienna	UNCITRAL: Working Group V (Insolvency Law), forty-first session	31 October - 4 November



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▼ **November 2011**

·Vienna	UNCITRAL: Working Group III (Online Dispute Resolution), twenty-fourth session	14 - 18 November
·Vienna	IAEA, Board of Governors, Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee	14 - 16 November
·Vienna	IAEA, Board of Governors	17 - 18 November
·Vienna	UNIDO, General Conference, fourteenth session	28 November - 2 December



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▼ **December 2011**

- Vienna [UNCITRAL: Working Group VI \(Security Interests\), twentieth session](#) **12 - 16 December**
- Vienna [Commission on Narcotic Drugs, resumed fifty-fourth session](#) **12 December**
- Vienna [Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, reconvened twentieth session](#) **13 December**

ANNEXES



NEW YORK
CITY BAR

The New York City Bar Council on International Affairs and the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice cordially invite you to a presentation by:

Lt. General (Ret.) ROMÉO DALLAIRE

Former commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission for Rwanda and author of the award-winning book, *Shake Hands with the Devil*.

They Fight Like Soldiers, They Die Like Children

Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.

At Fordham University, Lowenstein Building, 12th Floor Lounge
113 West 60th St., New York, NY (at Columbus Ave.)

Roméo Dallaire was the Force Commander of the U.N. Mission for Rwanda during the 1994 genocide and urgently requested support from the U.N. that, if heeded, could have halted the genocide. Now a Senator in the Canadian Parliament, Dallaire founded a project called the **Child Soldiers Initiative** and its youth advocacy campaign – **Zero Force** – which work to end the use of child soldiers.

General Dallaire will discuss child soldiers, including during his time in Rwanda, and will offer solutions to eradicate their use. His new book on child soldiers will be available for purchase.

Ishmael Beah, a former child soldier and author of *A Long Way Gone*, will introduce Dallaire.

Sponsored by the NY City Bar Council on International Affairs (Chair, Mark R. Shulman) and the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice at Fordham Law School (Executive Director, Elisabeth Wickeri) and co-sponsored by the City Bar's Committees on International Human Rights (Chair, Stephen Kass) and African Affairs (Chair, Megan Moloney)

The program is open to the public. Please R.S.V.P. to elizabethbarad@gmail.com



NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Vienna

Minutes 9 June 2011

Present:

R. Benesch, Soroptimist Int.; H. Bugajer, WIZO; E. Dürmayer, IADL; E. Frei, The Salvation Army; B. Hoffmann, NCGWO; A. Hofmann, Servas Int.; M. Jonas, SIW; H. Kaschitz, AAA; E. M. Kodek-Werba, ZONTA Int.; I. Mäntler, WFWPI; E. Melichar-Augustin, SGI; M. Parenzan, IFBPW; G. Pichler, IFHE/ACWW; K. Rudolph, NCGWO; S. Shaked, Hadassah; B. Stimmer, SIW; D. Vrdlovec, Soroptimist Int..

1. Welcome and Apologies:

M. Bargil, SIW; G. Frey, ICJW; I. Graenitz, IFUW; E. Hauer-Rona, ICW; K. Hellwagner, SIW; Lilian Hofmeister, IADL; V. Meisinger, PPSAWA-T; Ch. Petioky, IFSW; D. Reiter, IAW; E. Seidl, WFWPI; R. Weiss, IAW; P. Winkelbauer, WIZO.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda: adopted.

3. Adoption of minutes 5 May 2011: adopted

Matters arising from minutes:

The question arose towards Ms. Hellwagner, how NGOs can be in the Delegation (Minutes 4. Reports from CSW 55: Promises for next year are to include more NGOs in the official delegations of the governments.)? Answer and detailed clarification will be in our next meeting in September, when she is present.

4. Working Group for Statement CSW56 2012:

Priority theme for CSW56 in 2012 is "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges".

Interested on the Working Group are: Ms. Hellwagner, Ms. Graenitz, Ms. Pichler and a member of Soroptimist Int. (Ms. Benesch or Ms. Vrdlovec), with the help of Ms. Parenzan and eventually Ms. Bugajer.

As the Statement has to be sent at the end of October, the work-plan should be:

1st meeting of the working group in July/August, 1st draft of the Statement for the meeting on Sept 15th, 2011, this allows asking the headquarters, last discussion of the Draft in the meeting on October 20th.

First ideas for the Statement could be the Draft of a Statement of IFHE, Ms. Pichler will bring it in.

For more information Ms. Agnes Otzelberger (Care Austria) can be asked or/and informal cooperation with Ms. Barbara Felkel, Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development will be possible when the draft is ready - Ms. Parenzan already contacted her.

Concerning the review-theme of CSW56 on the topic of „Financing for gender equality and empowerment of women": The statement should be a very short one, as our statement for CSW52 in 2008 was quite detailed. Ms. Jonas will work on a draft, Ms. Benesch, Ms. Kaschitz and Ms. Dürmayer are interested on volunteering/working on finalizing the Statement.

9.) Report from Organisations:

-) Ms. E.-M. Kodek-Werba (Zonta International/CoNGO):

Ms. Kodek-Werba will be confirmed for the position of CoNGO-Vice-President for Vienna at the next Board Meeting of CoNGO to be held in Geneva at the end of June 2011. She was already introduced very well by Ms. Graenitz. Her

first tasks will be to keep the office in Vienna, to get a good basis on membership-fees (SIW decided to pay their membership to CoNGO-Vienna, already paid for last years) and to set up a new member-directory.

-) Ms. M. Jonas (SIW)

reported on a meeting of SIW on the topic of Arab Women on the Road to Democracy and she will bring the final resolution of this meeting for next September-Meeting; details see www.socintwomen.org.

She also spoke about the news concerning the Project in Sierra Leone, income-generating for former girls soldiers (see attached file / photos on the project will be sent later on).

-) Ms. E. Dürmayer (IADL) reported:

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers had its last Bureau meeting in February 2011 during the World Social Forum which took place in Dakar (Senegal) from the 6-10 February 2011, where I participated. One of the main themes of this Forum was the empowerment of women and the fight against any form of violence against women.

Two members of my Association were strongly criticising the brutal assault of members of the Saharoui women's delegation by members of the Moroccan delegation which was also reported in the Forum's newspaper.

I would like to quote from the resolution adopted at the Forum: "We fight against violence, often conducted in military occupied territories, but also violence affecting women who are criminalized for taking part in social struggles. We fight against domestic and sexual violence perpetrated on women because they are considered objects or goods, because the sovereignty of their bodies and minds is not acknowledged. We fight against the trade of women, girls and boys. We call on everyone to mobilize together, everywhere in the world, against violence against women. We defend sexual diversity, the right to gender self-determination and we oppose all homophobia and sexist violence."

Link: <http://fsm2011.org/en> and www.weltsozialforum.org/2011/2011.wsferklaerung/index/html.

The next Bureau meeting of my Association will take place at the end of September in San José (Costa Rica) and I intend to participate.

Last but not least I invite you to assist the discussion between Lilian Hofmeister (the alternate IADL representative in Vienna) and Omar Al- Rawi on the veil at the Artlounge of the Café Korb on June 21 at 6:30 pm. (see flyer).

-) Ms. R. Benesch (Sorooptimist Int.)

talked on a meeting of Sorooptimist International on the topic of Rural Women which will take place in Rome in July, some of the working issues might be interesting for the statement too.

-) Ms. G. Pichler (IFHE/ and ACWW)

spoke on the next (46th) DPI-Conference on Sept 5th, 2011 in Bonn. She and a member of Sorooptimist International will attend this conference.

6. Any other business:

-) Ms. M. Jonas (SIW)

got the information that 2 organisations (Sorooptimist International and WIZO) sent the declarations of SIW (see report from Organisations in the minutes of May 5th, 2011) to their headquarters and recommended to associate themselves with them. She then will report back to her headquarter which organisations joined. EWL did already, and published the declarations in their Newsletter.

She also spoke about the very well attended Fundraising Concert organized by the Austrian National Committee for UN-Women at the Diplomatic Academy.

-) Ms. D. Vrdlovec (Sorooptimist Int.)

reported on the event "Mothers Move Panel Presentation – Mothers Opposing Violent Extremism" on June 7th, 2011 in the Diplomatische Akademie with the very impressing speakers from Pakistan, Yemen (a Journalist of Yemen Times), Nigeria and one talking about the changes in Egypt.

-) Ms. M. Parenzan (Chair, IFBPW)

talked about a letter by the NGO CSW New York inviting for a brainstorming meeting concerning the Statement for CSW56 on June 6th in New York and the call for joining.

She also reported on another letter of an individual member of the NGO CSW NY on establishing Regional Committees with the aim bring more Grassroot Women to meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Parenzan sent a letter to thank her and announced that we would wait with further comments for the outcome of the next CoNGO Board Meeting.

She spoke on a Symposium on June 6th, 2011 on the topic of “Religious Pluralism, Freedom of Religion - Responsibilities of State, Society and Religious Communities” and a penal discussion on June 9th on the same topic.

She also mentioned the Celebration of the Unveiling of the “Tree of Hope” on June 27th, 2011.

-) Ms. E. Hauer-Rona (ICW) sent information to add to the minutes:

The International Council of Women’s Executive Meeting was held in Barcelona from 29 to 31 May 2011 followed by the Regional Meetings of the European Center of the ICW (ECICW) and the Asia Pacific Regional Council (APRC). The ECICW was celebrating the 50th anniversary of its foundation.

A resolution “Women - Agents for Peace” was adopted (see attached file).

-) Membership lists of the Committee will be sent out within the next days.

7. Date and place of next meeting:

For the next meeting on 15 September 2011 we are going to have a guest speaker of UN-Women. As Ms. Sucharipa is not available, other possible speakers could be Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, Ms. Brenner or Ms. Gneiss – Ms. Parenzan will contact them.

End of the meeting: 16.45 h

Date and place of next meetings:
September 15 – MOE 19
October 20 – G 0541
December 1 – G 0541

Attachments to the minutes:

-) Report on the Project in Sierra Leone Income-generating for former girls soldiers, by M. Jonas,
-) ICW Statement Barcelona 2011 on Women - Agents for Peace,
-) Flyer “Juristischer Salon”, 21.6.2011, Schleier und Kopftuch, Café Korb, Tuchlauben, Wien.

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*Schleier und Kopftuch - „Alte Hüte“ oder was?
Musliminnen in Wien*

**HR Dr. Lilian Hofmeister und DI Omar Al- Rawi
im Gespräch**

ORT: ARTLOUNGE CAFÉ KORB
1010 Wien, Brandstätte 9
öffentlich erreichbar: U1, U3 Stephansplatz
1A, 2A, 3A Brandstätte

ZEIT: 21. Juni 2011, 18:30

JURISTISCHER SALON

Freuen uns auf Ihr Kommen und Ihren Diskussionsbeitrag

IVDJ Internationale Vereinigung Demokratischer Juristinnen und Juristen
Verein Frauenrechtsschutz
AWJA Austrian Women Judges Association

