



Human Security & Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations

Dear Colleagues,

In an effort to make the proceedings of the 56th Annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) "Human Security & Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations" available to a broader public, the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) will web cast the Conference plenary sessions through the United Nations homepage <http://www.un.org> for the first time. The Conference, the premier NGO event at United Nations headquarters, takes place from 8 to 10 September 2003. About 2,000 NGO representatives that work with the United Nations are expected to attend.

The interactive web site will enable NGOs and the general public to live access of audio and video web casts through their personal computers. A dynamic feature of the web cast is an open discussion forum designed for each plenary session where NGOs will connect globally and will share comments on issues related to human security and dignity.

As the United Nations gears up for the World Summit on the Information Society (in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003), and seeks to close the technological gap between nations, this groundbreaking initiative will bring NGO's worldwide together to share their valuable insights live.

According to Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General of Communications and Public Information, "NGOs represent diverse voices from around the world and we are determined to reach out to them with our common concerns and commitments in achieving human security."

Fannie Munlin, Chair of the Conference and Representative to the United Nations for the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. said, "This innovative platform will enable hundreds, perhaps thousands, of our NGO partners outside of New York to participate directly in the Conference."

The web site will become active to the NGO network on Friday, 5 September through the United Nations DPI/NGO Section web page, <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection> or NGO/DPI Executive Committee's web page, <http://www.ngodpiexecom.org/conference>. Enter user name(either your first name or other) and click on the specific session you would like to join. Then click on: "Ask a question" or scroll down to the end of the panel

section and "Add comments". Click "Create" to post your comments. The web site will also be archived for future reference.

The Conference will feature presentations by such notables as: Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former President of Brazil, who now chairs a high-level panel to strengthen United Nations partnerships with civil society; Danny Glover, the actor and a UNDP Goodwill Ambassador; Jeffrey Sachs, world-renowned economist on development issues and a Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General; as well as Sadako Ogata, former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Co-Chair of the United Nations Commission on Human Security.

The web site will web cast the plenary sessions including five panels: 1) Psychological Aspects of Human Security and Dignity, 2) Educating for a Secure Future, 3) From Oppression to Empowerment, 4) Sustainable Development in the Context of Globalization, and 5) A Conversation with Eminent Persons on Global Trends and Strategies.

We hope to inform as many NGO representatives as possible about the Conference web cast. Please join us in promoting the event through your listserves and publications and by posting a link to the web cast on your web site prior to the Conference.

NGO Section, DPI