



*Building Global
Governance Partnerships*

*Bâtir des partenariats
pour la gouvernance
mondiale*

*Crear alianzas para la
gobernación mundial*

World Civil Society
Conference

Conférence mondiale
de la société civile

Conferencia Mundial
de la Sociedad Civil

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- 1 Opening plenary / Séance d'ouverture
- 3 Welcome / Mots de bienvenu
- 5 Plenary sessions / Séances plenières
- 11 The Spirit of Montreal / L'esprit de Montréal
- 15 Concurrent workshops / Ateliers
- 19 Rapporteurs' summaries / Résumés des rapporteurs



Civil society demands 'action rather than words'

As a new millennium dawns, civil society has established itself as a source of pro-active, inspired and trustworthy leadership that has "demanded action rather than words to address the imperfections of this world," stated Wangari Maathai, a member of the Commission on Global Governance and one of the leaders of Kenya's Green Belt Movement.

"Humankind has witnessed the gradual transfer of leadership and power from a privileged few to enlightened elective democracies," Maathai told the opening plenary of the World Civil Society Conference. Through this process, civil society has emerged as "an increasing movement of organized non-government organizations, media, the business community, academics, and others who have both an opportunity and a responsibility to envision a strong, courageous, moral and value-based global leadership."

In recent years, United Nations summits on environment, population,

opportunities for women, socio-economic justice, human rights, trade, technology and peace have challenged world leaders to "make this world a better place for all people," she noted. "But world leaders continue to give more lip service to these issues than commitment, much to the frustration of civil society."

The solution, Maathai said, is a form of global leadership that "recognizes the need to care for the world beyond local interests and concerns, beyond national and regional borders." She described WOCOSOC as an opportunity "to share, learn, renew our solidarity, to strategize, and to plan our future together."

Based on the "higher ideals and values" it brings to the table, she

continued on page 2



Kofi Annan

Vers une culture de la prévention

« Nous devons nous orienter vers une culture de la prévention pour remplacer la culture de guerre que nous connaissons actuellement ». C'est par ces propos que le Secrétaire général des Nations-Unies (ONU), M. Kofi Annan a invité les représentants des différents organisations de la société civile venus du monde entier à soumettre leurs idées et leurs suggestions pour que « la société civile globale devienne une réalité ».

« Dans l'avenir, je vois un monde propice à l'établissement de liens solides entre nous, dit M. Annan. Je vois les Nations Unies qui reconnaissent que la révolution des ONG – les nouvelles pressions mondiales... comme la meilleure chose qui soit arrivée à notre organisation depuis fort longtemps. »

La mondialisation suscite beaucoup de crainte et de peur auprès des gens. Mais, elle représente

aussi de grands espoirs en imaginant des citoyens conscients de leur milieu. « La conscientiation des citoyens est au coeur des organisations comme WOCOSOC », dit M. Annan.

Depuis le Sommet de Rio, en particulier, les ONG n'ont pas cessé d'exprimer leurs craintes et leurs inquiétudes face à la désorganisation sociale, les agressions contre l'environnement, les torts faits aux femmes et aux enfants et pour que les criminels de guerre ne reste pas impunis. « Cette années, les gouvernements ont accepté d'éliminer la dette des pays pauvres. Vous devez faire en sorte qu'ils tiennent leurs engagements et augmentent leur aide à ces pays pauvres », dit M. Annan.

« Nous pouvons et devons être des partenaires pour atteindre les objectif de la société civile globale tout en continuant à faire de la prévention pour éviter

suite à la page 2

En la sesión inaugural de la Conferencia Mundial de la Sociedad Civil, el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Kofi Annan, exhortó a los delegados a orientarse hacia una cultura de prevención con objeto de reemplazar la cultura de la guerra que conocemos actualmente.

Por su parte, Wangari Maathai, miembro de la Comisión sobre Gobernabilidad Mundial y uno de los líderes del Movimiento del Cinturón Verde de Kenia, subrayó en su alocución que la sociedad civil demandaba ver hechos concretos que hicieran del mundo un mejor lugar para vivir.



« Il doit y avoir un rapprochement entre les différents niveaux d'intervenants, parce que l'esprit des débats me semble constructif. »

– Île de Malte

“As we get into the new millennium, it's important for civil society to revisit its role and look at how effective it can be, especially in terms of good governance. We have to look at the role of NGOs and civil society, vis à vis our own governments. For me, coming from Zimbabwe, that's very important... We must also look at the role we can play in influencing what happens at the macro level, especially macro-economics and the impact that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have had in our country.”

– Harare, Zimbabwe

continued from page 1

added, civil society must press the case that “politics and economics need not be an excuse for inertia, intolerance, greed and prejudice. Within the institutions of the United Nations, we can turn politics and economics around and create an opportunity for responsible leadership which represents all people, not just the economically and politically most powerful.”

Working through a renewed UN, “we can give new meaning to the concept of one world, one ship, one home,” Maathai stressed. “Despite our diverse backgrounds, we are united in our vision for a better world. We draw our authority from the people whose voices we echo, and from our solidarity with them. Our strength is in our capacity to persuade and co-operate in genuine partnerships, and to lead by example.”

As common realities and common ground emerge, there will be opportunities to move toward a global code of ethics “which could not only guide the civil society, but also the rest of the world leadership,” she said. But to be truly democratic, any new global governance partnerships will have to be based on enforceable laws for all peoples and states. “If it is democratic, it is not forced upon the weak by the powerful, but is presented for the common good of all. Democracy does not demand equality. It should demand equal and just opportunities for all.”

Maathai opened her address by acknowledging UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for intervening on behalf herself and several colleagues, after they were physically attacked while trying to defend the Karura forest in Nairobi. “As members of civil society, advocating for human rights and justice can sometimes put our lives on the line,” she said. The type of support that Annan provided “encourages those who defend the principles which are also close to the heart of the United Nations.”

suite de la page 1

d'autres Sierra Leone, Kosovo ou Rouanda », dit-il.

Force est de reconnaître que beaucoup de cultures sont en danger ou sont perdues. Il y a de nombreux gouvernements qui n'ont pas réellement de contrôle sur le phénomène de la mondialisation. C'est une erreur de croire que la mondialisation est la source de tous les maux. « Il faut toutefois trouver les moyens, originaux et constructifs, de gérer la mondialisation afin qu'elle bénéficie au plus grand nombre possible de personnes et de nations. Nous devons donner un visage humain à la mondialisation, » dit M. Annan.

Le développement des technologies de communication, par exemple, permettre de recueillir et d'échanger des informations sur ce qui se passe dans le monde. « Elles vous permettent d'entrer en communication avec les gens dans le besoins par delà des frontières », dit M. Annan.

En réponse à une question concernant l'inefficacité des Casques bleus, au Rouanda, par exemple, M. Annan a reconnu les difficultés d'intervention de l'ONU dans certains conflits, par exemple au Rouanda. « Dans ce cas précis, nous publierons un rapport sur les événements. Nous croyons que cela nous permettra de mieux identifier les situations conflictuelles. Nous devrions alors être en mesure de choisir le bon moyen d'intervenir dans l'avenir », dit M. Annan.

En cas de guerre, « l'expérience de la communauté internationale nous permet de réagir rapidement. Nous devons apprendre à le faire en vue de prévenir des situations conflictuelles. Cela implique de modifier le règlement de la Charte des Nations-Unies pour l'adapter à cette nouvelle ère de prévention dans une société civile globale », dit M. Annan.

Enfin, il s'est engagé à rencontrer la Marche mondiale des femmes dont le rendez-vous aura lieu à New York, le 17 octobre 2000.



Welcoming remarks

Civil society 'must be encouraged': Chrétien

In his welcoming remarks to the World Civil Society Conference, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien stressed the central importance of broader partnerships between governments, civil society, international organizations, and the United Nations.

Chrétien told participants that the timing of WOC SOC, a couple of weeks before the new millennium, was appropriate for an event designed to fashion a new vision of our common future. He added that all sectors will have a role to play in supplying humanitarian assistance, supporting the development of democratic institutions, and rebuilding countries that have been devastated by war.

Civil society "must be encouraged, supported and strengthened, because democracy can only exist in the context of a dynamic civil society," the Prime Minister said. "We're at a watershed in our history, and the symbolic value of the new millennium can be a powerful factor in mobilizing our energy."

He expressed confidence that discussions at WOC SOC "will be a source of creative inspiration to all who are devoted to this cause".

UN, civil society share crucial role

Cyril Ritchie, Chair of the WOC SOC International Steering Committee, opened the conference by underscoring the crucial role of the United Nations and civil society in world affairs.

"The world has need of a strong UN, based on incontrovertible principles, run in a rational way, and financed adequately, so that it is not obliged to go through contortions to achieve its goals," he said. At the same time, more than ever before, civil society is "indispensable to the search for rational and realistic solutions to the world's problems."

continued on page 4

Bourque lauds NGOs' 'remarkable work'

Montréal Mayor Pierre Bourque welcomed participants Tuesday evening with a trilingual address that acknowledged the efforts of civil society organizations to promote economic development and defend human rights and liberties.

"In my travels abroad, I have seen first-hand the remarkable work that you do as non-government organizations," he told participants. "You are always in the forefront in promoting humanitarian causes."

Bourque noted that a serious process of restructuring had demonstrated the vital importance of local civil society organizations. "I hope that Montréal's spirit will encourage you to accomplish great work here."

D'après la Ministre, « l'interdépendance est incontournable »

Dans son discours d'ouverture de la conférence, la Ministre des Relations internationales du Québec, Louise Beaudoin, a souhaité la bienvenue au Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, Kofi Annan et aux participants dans une « métropole nord-américaine qui vibre au rythme de la culture francophone ».

« Plusieurs des sujets qui seront discutés au cours des prochains jours n'étaient l'objet, jusqu'à récemment encore, que de discussions entre les États. Aujourd'hui, l'interdépendance de tous les partenaires sociaux s'avère incontournable, » a-t-elle affirmé. Les récents événements de Seattle témoignent des défis que doivent relever la société civile, les Nations Unies et les gouvernements nationaux.

« C'est en effet l'implication de la société civile dans la mise en œuvre des politiques adoptées lors des grandes conférences internationales de l'ONU, dont les thématiques touchaient notamment l'environnement, les droits de la personne, le développement social et la condition des femmes, qui vous conduit à Montréal. »

Faisant état de l'engagement d'Annan « d'enrôler » les acteurs non étatiques comme partenaires, la Ministre a souligné que, « au Québec, la société civile, constituée des syndicats, des dirigeants patronaux, du secteur que l'on appelle communautaire, du milieu coopératif, des mouvements de femmes, de jeunes et d'étudiants, influence les décisions du gouvernement. » Elle a insisté sur l'importance « d'une complicité active entre les partenaires qui va au-delà des intérêts particuliers ou des positions politiques dogmatiques. Il y a là un profond cheminement. »



continued from page 3

« Le discours de Kofi Annan est innovateur. Il faut voir maintenant comment cette volonté de réforme va se concrétiser sur le terrain ».

– Bamako, Mali

While the language of civil society is relatively new, Ritchie stressed that recent campaigns to ban landmines and establish the International Criminal Court can trace their roots back to the anti-slavery and anti-apartheid movements, and to the “humanitarian groundswell” that first launched the Red Cross. He called on governments to “open up to and respond to input from relevant and competent civil society organizations,” predicting that the introduction of limitless communication mechanisms will make it “impossible to govern without the genuine consent of the people”.

“This is only my second UN conference, but I have to say I’m approaching the event with a degree of cynicism. While they are immensely enjoyable events and you make lots of very good contacts, some of which turn out to be useful in the long term, I’m not yet convinced that the world is a better place when you’re finished. The workshops is where I’m hoping the action will be...that will decide whether we come up with anything to do that we wouldn’t otherwise have done. I hope I’m less cynical by the end of the week.”

– London, England



« Il y a beaucoup de paroles, pas assez d’actions. Il faut mettre l’emphase sur la création de réseaux. C’est plus efficace ».

– Nairobi, Kenya





Un changement qui s'organise à la base

Le monde est témoin d'un changement majeur, d'une prise de conscience que la mondialisation des marchés ne doit pas se faire au détriment de la paix, des droits humains et de l'environnement. Plus de 50 000 personnes l'ont exprimé récemment à Seattle, lors de la rencontre de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC).

La mondialisation doit se réaliser dans le but d'éliminer la violence et pour la sécurité de nos enfants. « Nous devons appuyer le programme de l'ONU pour une culture de la paix », selon les propos de Mme Janis Alton, de la Voix des femmes en Canada. La principale priorité de nos actions va à l'abolition des armes nucléaires puis à la protection de l'environnement. Nous devons tenir compte des différences culturelles et favoriser l'éducation des enfants. « Le rôle des femmes est primordial pour développer cette culture de la paix », selon les propos de Mme Weiss.

Mme Akiko Domoto, sénatrice au Japon, exprime aussi cette volonté de paix. « La reconnaissance du statut consultatif officiel des ONG est devenue force de loi au Japon depuis un an », dit-elle. Les ONG ont un rôle important à jouer dans la perspective d'un développement durable dans le cadre de la gouvernance mondiale. La répartition équitable des richesses naturelles doit servir de frein aux migrations des populations dont les ressources locales ont été dilapidées. « Il faut avoir le courage et la vision nécessaire pour faire de la protection de nos ressources naturelles et de la sécurité des gens nos principales priorités au début de ce nouveau millénaire », dit Mme Domoto.

L'internationalisation des marchés a des incidences néfastes sur les sociétés locales par leurs interventions directes et indirectes. « Il y aurait trop de spéculations auxquelles sont soumis les gouvernements locaux des

pays pauvres, en particuliers » dit M. Julian Disney, du Conseil international du bien-être social (ICSW). L'ONU a un rôle d'arbitre à jouer. « Les pouvoirs du Conseil économique et social doivent être accrus pour que l'organisme soit en mesure d'établir l'équilibre entre les pays pauvres et les pays riches », dit-il.

Toutefois, ce rôle d'arbitre ne saurait se concrétiser sans une bonne campagne d'information et une mise à

disposition des technologies de communication auprès des populations actuellement dépourvues. « Il faut un partage efficace des technologies de l'information dans une gouvernance mondiale. En passant outre aux considérations matérielles, on peut la rendre accessible à tous, riches et pauvres », dit M. Kumi Naidoo, de CIVICUS. Cela favoriserait la mise en place d'un partenariat pour la gouvernance globale.

La interdependencia mundial erosiona la soberanía

Citando desafíos mundiales tales como el desarme, la pobreza, el analfabetismo y las enfermedades, Ramesh Thakur, vicerrector de la Universidad de las Naciones Unidas, expresó que ningún país por sí solo podrá lograr paz, prosperidad, desarrollo sostenible y buena gobernabilidad.

John Foster, editor en jefe del estudio *Whose World is it Anyway?* señaló que los privilegios privados, los derechos de propiedad y el poder corporativo se han expandido, mientras que los derechos humanos, laborales y la seguridad económica y ambiental se han visto socavados.

Janis Alton, miembro de Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, puso énfasis en el papel que desempeñan las mujeres en crear una cultura de paz para el nuevo siglo.

Akiko Domoto, senadora japonesa, planteó que la mundialización del comercio, las inversiones y la comunicación hacen que los desafíos en materia de medio ambiente y desarrollo adquieran cada vez más un carácter mundial.

El presidente del Consejo Internacional sobre Bienestar Social, Julian Disney, llamó la atención sobre las repercusiones profundas y adversas que podría tener el sistema financiero internacional.

Kumi Naidoo, de CIVICUS, analizó la repercusión de la tecnología en la gobernabilidad mundial.

Y Janice Houghton, por su parte, instó a los participantes a apoyar el programa de la ONU para establecer una cultura de la paz.

"In my opinion, there should have been many more platforms for young people and more participation by youth in plenary discussions. Youth views should have been heard much more. But I do see so many opportunities to establish new partnerships, get to know people, and learn more about the process that's going on at the United Nations in terms of civil society."

– Istanbul, Turkey



Global interdependence erodes sovereignty

Citing global challenges such as disarmament, poverty, illiteracy and ill health, Ramesh Thakur, Vice-Rector of the United Nations University, stressed that the global public goods of peace, prosperity, sustainable development and good governance cannot be achieved by any country acting on its own.

Noting that global interdependence has resulted in the "partial erosion of the once sacrosanct national sovereignty," Thakur advocated the systematic use of the United Nations forum and modalities to manage and end conflicts.



« Je suis impressionnée par les propos entendus aujourd'hui. C'est ma première participation à une assemblée aussi importante. Personnellement, je préfère les ateliers, là où les échanges sont plus concrets, plus pratiques. »

– Italie

John Foster, Editor-in-Chief of the UNAC study, *Whose World Is It Anyway?*, cited a number of obstacles that impede an enabling environment for global governance. Great amounts of sovereignty are often ceded to the market, and to global economic institutions that are distant from regular citizens. Private privilege, property rights and corporate power have been expanded while human rights, the right to be militant, labour rights, economic and environmental security, and equity have often been undermined. Foster called for a number of reforms, including a stronger UN that includes multilateral economic institutions within its normative framework, comprehensive support for NGO and civil society liaison with multilateral institutions, improved working relations at the headquarters of the UN and multilateral institutions, and coherent policies for implementing international agreements.

Janis Alton of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace emphasized the role of women in creating a culture of peace for the new century. Calling for gender balance and the inclusion of women at every level of governance, Alton stated that the UN should be the role model for institutional behaviour in the world. The issue of access is crucial, she stressed: in order to be sustainable, peace agreements must include the voices of women, youth, victims, and religious communities. She added that any nation that spends more on its military than on health and education programs should be held up to public rebuke, and its misallocation of state resources should be punishable by law.

Sen. Akiki Domoto of Japan said the new reality of globalized trade, investment and communication makes the

challenges of population, environment and development more global than ever. She acknowledged the view among NGOs, parliamentarians, local governments and others that the international governance system is very unbalanced. "Despite increased participation and advances on many fronts, the poor continue to become poorer and the environment is increasingly under threat," Ms. Domoto said. "However corporations, which create much of the world's wealth and employment, often do not see themselves as partners in the struggle to attain sustainable human development."

Julian Disney, President of the International Council on Social Welfare, discussed the potentially profound adverse impacts of the international financial system. When private finance goes into speculative activities, he said, the result is often destructive to communities or job opportunities, inhibiting longer-term and more productive activities that provide jobs and stability. Short-term investment decisions can also have negative impacts on policy development, forcing governments to favour rapid, short-term growth and to cut taxes below the level that is appropriate for long-term economic and social development. The erosion of taxation, particularly the taxation of assets, has become a major problem worldwide, Disney added.

Kumi Naidoo of CIVICUS discussed the impact of technology on global governance. "While maximizing the various available technologies and expanding access," he said, "it is critical to develop bridging strategies to ensure that emerging technologies do not exclude more and more of humanity in the processes of governance at all levels."



UN Special Representative: Personal testimony cites 'unspeakable abominations' toward children

In his travels through countries such as Burundi, Rwanda, Sudan, Kosovo, and Colombia, UN Under-Secretary General Olara Otunnu has witnessed again and again the consequences of "unspeakable abominations" directed against children in the context of armed conflict.

Otunnu, a UN special representative for children and armed conflicts, told participants that children in approximately 50 countries worldwide are suffering in the midst or aftermath of conflict. They are killed, orphaned, maimed, uprooted from their homes, raped and sexually abused, denied access to schools and health care, and exploited as child soldiers.

"The magnitude of the abominations attests to a new phenomenon, a qualitative shift in the nature and conduct of warfare in the modern era," Otunnu said. "Conflicts are protracted for years, with local and international laws being cast aside," and "they are usually characterized by political fragmentation and large-scale cultural breakdown."

Today, up to 90% of all casualties in conflict situations are civilians, a staggering statistic compared to 5% in the First World War and 8% in the Second World War. There are currently at least 30 locations of conflict; the vast majority of casualties are children and women.

"In so many conflict situations around the globe we are seeing a free-for-all, a kind of ethical vacuum in which children, women, the elderly, crops and livestock have all become fair game in the single-minded struggle for power," he said. "We must mobilize all our resources to reclaim and reassert those values and taboos that have traditionally been instrumental to protecting women, children and the elderly in times of conflict."

Otunnu proposed several measures to reverse this trend. Civil societies can play a crucial role in launching the application of international norms and standards, promoting local traditional value systems, adopting children as a zone of peace, ensuring that children are the central concern in post-conflict negotiations, and integrating child protection into UN peace operations.

"All non-combatants are entitled to protection, but children have a primary claim because they are especially vulnerable, because they are the least equipped to adapt or respond to conflict, and because they are the least responsible for the conflicts, even though they suffer disproportionately from their effects," he said.

Children represent the hope and future of every society, Otunnu stressed. "All they ask for is a little help. If we as civil society decide to work together to reverse these trends of abomination, if we are prepared to invest in it and to work for it, we can make a difference."

"What I've found most useful is the openness of people to speak. However, I'm disappointed that there's been no time slot for youth speakers to go up onstage and say something. A workshop was set aside, but we've not been given an opportunity to express our views in the mainstream discussion."

– Nairobi, Kenya

La mondialisation des responsabilités

Constatant que l'action humanitaire d'urgence ne donne pas toujours les résultats escomptés, M. Cornelio Sommaruga, président du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge (CICR), considère les interventions visant à soulager toute forme de souffrance humaine comme la priorité.

Ces interventions, « que celle-ci soit causée par des catastrophes naturelles ou par l'homme, dans des situations auxquelles les individus et les communautés ne peuvent faire face seuls, et où les organisations humanitaires internationales sont contraintes d'agir pour sauver des vies,

alléger les souffrances, rétablir les droits fondamentaux de la personne humaine et encourager le respect du droit international, » représente son concept d'action humanitaire.

Dans un avenir prévisible, les besoins humanitaires devraient augmenter, et non diminuer. La communauté internationale doit répondre rapidement et efficacement à tous les besoins essentiels d'êtres humains pris au piège dans des situations d'urgence auxquelles ils ne peuvent faire face seuls. Il importe donc que ces interventions ne soient pas utilisées à des fins politiques tant par les gouvernements que les donateurs.

suite à la page 8



suite de la page 7

« Je ne pense pas que cet idéal soit irréaliste », dit M. Sommaruga.

La pratique de la communauté internationale de réagir « de manière sélective aux crises actuelles » doit cesser. Dans ce sens, « nous demandons instamment aux ONG de veiller à ce que leurs gouvernements respectifs tiennent leurs engagements internationaux », dit M. Sommaruga.

Les interventions auprès de victimes particulières doivent se faire de manière à ne pas créer de nouvelles inégalités en négligeant d'autres catégories de victimes sociales, économiques ou de guerre, par exemple.

Le président du CICR exhorte tous ceux et celles qui traitent des questions spécifiques aux droits humains d'apporter leur appui sans équivoque aux organisations humanitaires internationales qui « s'efforcent de répondre de manière globale aux besoins essentiels de toutes les victimes, quelles qu'elles soient et où qu'elles se trouvent ».

Ces organisations doivent pouvoir agir indépendamment de toutes considérations politiques. Il faut qu'elles aient les mains libres pour que « cesse de se creuser le fossé entre les droits humains internationaux et l'atroce réalité des conflits d'aujourd'hui », dit M. Sommaruga.

Pour instaurer un partenariat humanitaire mondial, nous devons bien préciser le rôle de tous ceux qui interviennent et trouver des moyens de coordonner les actions sans abandonner les idéaux, les principes et l'indépendance de chacun.

« C'est pourquoi je plaide en faveur de la mondialisation des responsabilités, pour que les gouvernements augmentent leurs appuis financiers aux ONG. Et je n'accepte pas l'argument de la crise économique mondiale quand je vois les budgets militaires de ces mêmes gouvernements », conclut-t-il.

« Je n'aime pas le maillage ONG-ONU. Les ONG ne doivent pas se compromettre dans une cohabitation. Il faudrait constituer un lobby international des ONG, bien le structurer pour concrétiser les rêves de tous les participants qui sont ici ».

– Montréal, Canada

Mayor urges sustainable democracy

A culture of peace must be built on a foundation of sustainable democracy and a comprehensive approach to education and personal sovereignty, Prof. Federico Mayor, former Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), told a luncheon audience Thursday afternoon.

"Sustainable democracy – justice, freedom, equality and solidarity, according to the principles enshrined in UNESCO's constitution – is a prerequisite for sustainable development," Mayor stressed. "Without sharing, without interaction, without diversity, development is unsustainable." He described peace, democracy and development as "interactive components of a triangle that we must build all together, protect all together, and consolidate all together with our everyday behaviour."

A decade ago, with the collapse of the Berlin wall and the end of the Soviet system, many assumed that "the peace dividends would start to flow, to balance the immense asymmetries brought about through the military empowerment of the superpowers," Mayor said. "We thought military alliances would be complemented before long with environmental alliances, with alliances to react rapidly to reduce the impact of natural hazards, to apply appropriate treatment to all human beings." Instead, international development funding has declined as a percentage of national GNPs in the industrialized north, with only the Nordic countries honouring the 1974 commitment that the richest economies would devote 0.7% of GNP to development.

Further, "the loans have generated a vicious circle that results in the donors getting richer every day and the debtors poorer," he said. And while military spending in EU countries is on the rise, "what a perplexity – there is no money for food for all, for AIDS treatment for all, for poverty eradication, for care of the environment," he said. "There are no funds to honour our commitments adopted at the UN conferences of the 90s."

Mayor stressed the central role of civil society in bringing about meaningful change on crucial issues. "Only the voice of all the people, of all the peoples, can confront today's terrible inertia," he said. Some self-styled pragmatists might believe that there are no solutions, but "they will never change anything, because you cannot transform what you accept. We must try and try constantly to transform, to redress, to improve, to modify completely if necessary."

Citing recent correspondence from WOCSOC Chair Cyril Ritchie, Mayor urged participants to behave, invest and educate differently, in order to "make peace and non-violence part of the daily life of all human beings".



No peace without development: Ravanera

The anger that surfaced at the WTO session in Seattle last week demonstrated that "there is no peace without development, no development without respect for human rights, and no human rights without the satisfaction of basic needs," Roel R. Ravanera of the Asian NGO Coalition told plenary participants Tuesday morning.

But while global economic integration once held out the promise of progress, he said, "there has been great disappointment – as expressed in Seattle – that over the last 20 years, little has been achieved in reducing poverty." Instead, developing countries face the combined threats of increased poverty, widespread environmental degradation, and breakdown in community life. With the release of its *Global Economic Prospects* report earlier this week, the World Bank projected that the international community will continue to fall short of its poverty reduction targets.

"There is increasing landlessness among the rural poor, depriving them of their livelihood base," Ravanera said. "More than 50 countries in the world have debts that will never be met, but continue to be paid daily with people's lives."

Southern NGOs formed the International Forum on Capacity Building, to engage northern NGOs and donors in a process of diagnosing the causes of the crisis, identifying stakeholders' special resources and legitimate needs, agreeing on principles and strategies for joint action, finding solutions that "promote mutual gains", and encouraging specific projects. The hope, Ravanera said, is that "multistakeholder planning and action can lead to increased creativity and resources in attaining the desired goals."

"The issue of the relationship between NGOs and the UN is something that's clearly going to be a major area of progress, both for the UN to become more democratic and for NGOs to become more influential. This conference is very important to bridge that gap and foster better understanding of both sides of that equation. It's part of a process...but I think it's an important step in the right direction."

– New York, USA

Codes reflect NGOs' evolving role

The rapid emergence of NGO codes of conduct over the past decade demonstrates the growing role of civil society in public service and policy-making, both domestically and internationally, WOCSOC Steering Committee member Martha Schweitz told participants in the Thursday morning plenary session.

"We're seeing an increasingly self-conscious civil society," said Schweitz, a professor at Seinan Gakvin University in Japan. Although codes of conduct have been developed in different societies, cultures and regions, and by NGOs with vastly differing levels of experience, "they are in many respects so similar. They all present a view of social and economic development that is participa-

tory, people-centred, sustainable, and focussed on both the immediate and long-term needs of the most poor and marginalized segments of society."

The codes also reflect a common understanding that civil society is an essential partner in achieving the goals of development. Most of the documents express interest in a dialogue and partnership with government, and underscore the importance of NGOs as components of a democratic society.

Since the earliest codes of conduct are only a decade old, Schweitz cautioned that it is "far too early to estimate their long-term effect." But even allowing for differences in interpretation among communities and cultures, the basic similarities in

continued on page 10





Réforme de l'ONU : Passer dans l'action

« J'ai l'impression que la société civile vient à la rescousse de l'ONU. Je ne vois pas comment elle pourrait influencer la réforme. Je crois plutôt que la réflexion pratique doit se faire à des niveaux régionaux ».

– Rabat, Maroc

« Les ONG sont une force internationale que l'on ne peut plus ignorer. »

– Canada

Une réforme institutionnelle s'impose pour réhabiliter le rôle des Nations-Unies. « C'est dans l'action que nous devons être », dit Mme Gillian Martin Sorensen, adjointe du Secrétaire général. L'ONU doit dépasser le cercle étroit des politiciens pour se rapprocher des groupes actifs. « Nous voulons élargir l'éventail des participants à nos réunions », dit-elle. C'est pourquoi, le secrétariat général favorise un partenariat qui intègre la société civile.

La société civile a de nombreux moyens pour faire la promotion de ses objectifs. Grâce à l'Internet, entre autres, il devient de plus en plus facile et rapide de communiquer entre les groupes et de diffuser l'information. « C'est un bon outil pour mobiliser les troupes », dit Mme Sorensen.

Elle déplore, cependant, le fait que certaines ONG aient des activités douteuses. « Les quelques exceptions donnent une mauvaise image. Dans certains cas, elles créent des

problèmes réels avec la majorité qui travaille sérieusement sur le terrain », dit Mme Sorensen. La transparence qui caractérise la société civile et qui devrait se maintenir, facilite actuellement les relations entre les partenaires que l'on veut regrouper au sein de l'ONU.

Le Secrétariat général explore présentement un terrain neuf, de nouvelles voies de réforme. Plusieurs pays membres se sentiraient menacés par ces changements. « Ce ne sont pas les plus répressifs qui s'inquiètent du pouvoir que pourrait avoir la société civile », dit-elle. Il y a beaucoup d'efforts à faire auprès des parlementaires pour les convaincre du bien-fondé des objectifs de la société civile et de la réforme entreprise à l'ONU.

« Essayez, par exemple, de faire du Chili votre champion défenseur de vos objectifs. C'est l'étendue du travail que vous avez à faire », conclut-elle.

Roel R. Ravanera, de la Coalición Asiática de ONG, señalaba que «no hay paz sin desarrollo ni desarrollo sin respeto a los derechos humanos, ni derechos humanos sin satisfacción de las necesidades básicas». Recordó Ravanera que si bien en sus inicios la integración económica mundial despertó las esperanzas de muchos países, la pobreza se había reducido muy poco en los últimos veinte años.

En su intervención ante la Conferencia, Gillian Martín Sorensen, funcionaria adjunta al Secretario General de la ONU, señaló la necesidad de permitir una mayor participación de la sociedad civil en los planes de reforma de esa institución.

A su vez, Martha Schweitz, miembro del Comité de Dirección de WOCSOC, dijo a los participantes que el surgimiento de códigos de conducta de las ONG durante los últimos diez años demostraba el papel cada vez más importante de la sociedad civil en el servicio público y la formulación de políticas.

continued from page 9

approach mean that the codes "may represent an early attempt to define the nature and purpose of non-government participation in governance".

NGOs in some countries have been hesitant to build explicit self-regulatory standards into their codes of conduct, for fear that governments might use the provisions against them or other civil society organizations. "This may be true in certain political contexts," Schweitz acknowledged. Still, the widely-perceived need among NGOs to adopt codes of conduct containing similar visions and values "signifies that something is happening," she said. "It's about shifting the ethical foundations of governance at all levels."



Plenary IV

Where do we go from here: Making and reaffirming commitments

On the final day of the World Civil Society Conference, participants met in plenary to discuss the specific actions and commitments that would tangible expression to the previous two days of discussion and policy development.

Sharon Capeling-Alakija of UN Volunteers said civil society does not always manifest itself within organizations, even though it is a space where people come together outside the institutions of market and government. She noted that individuals regularly exercise initiative through mutual aid, self-help, philanthropy, service to others, participation in the government process, advocacy and campaigning.

United Nations conferences provide civil society with the opportunity for learning, as well as a platform for restating or legitimizing issues, mobilizing resources, globalizing networks, influencing policy and reshaping institutions. Capeling-Alakija stressed the need for the UN to develop strategic, more relevant and meaningful alliances with civil society. A critical challenge is to expand access to the Internet in developing countries.

Princess Esther Kamatari of Burundais en France stated that the right to interfere compels global monitoring and action in dangerous situations. It has become clear that governments cannot settle their internal problems alone, she said, yet true democracy is a necessary condition for civil society.

Marc Raboy of Voices 21 proposed a number of actions towards the goal of media reform. He said the conventional mass media must play a socially progressive role in the 21st century, especially regarding matters of governance. Vigilance is critical, to ensure that new media such as the Internet remain open and accessible to non-commercial and non-governmental users. Accessibility to media needs to be broadened and made universal, to end the societal division between the information-rich and information-poor.

An audience member questioned whether the UN can be restructured, in particular whether reform of the Security Council is inherently blocked due to

resistance from China and Russia. Capeling-Alakija responded that these countries are not the only obstacles to change; if reform is to occur, campaigns will be needed within all countries.

A participant pointed out that accessibility and participation for French and Spanish-speaking delegates at the conference had been limited, due to the predominance of English and the lack of translation services during many of the concurrent workshops.

Au-delà des suggestions, des propositions et des recommandations faites pour être ajoutées aux comptes-rendus des ateliers et qui devraient se retrouver formellement dans le rapport final, les participants à la plénière ont souligné des lacunes durant la conférence.

En premier lieu, l'absence de traduction dans les ateliers a limité, voire rendu impossible, des échanges avec des participants francophones et hispanophones. Plusieurs ont considéré ce manque comme un obstacle majeur à une participation efficace des gens.

Deuxièmement, plusieurs rapports d'atelier, ne refléteraient pas l'esprit des discussions. Il y aurait eu des oublis ou des modifications de ce qui aurait été discuté.

Enfin, et cela a été reconnu par la majorité de la salle, la place accordée aux femmes, en particulier, aux autochtones ou encore aux pays latino-américains ne représenterait pas la réalité pour ceux qui interviennent sur le terrain.

La femme est à la base de l'activité de la communauté. Avec les enfants, elle est aussi la première à souffrir d'une situation de guerre ou de problèmes économiques. Afin de pallier à cette situation, on recommande de renforcer les capacités financières et techniques des ONG de femmes.

La guerre est l'ultime négation des objectifs de la société civile. Elle annule tous les efforts faits au cours des années pour améliorer la situation de l'humanité. Il serait donc futile de vouloir parler de souveraineté politique sans assurer au départ l'autonomie économique des communautés. La démocratie officielle d'un pays ne lui garantit

pas son indépendance. Les gens souffrent aussi économiquement.

Il faut aussi sensibiliser les gens des différents pays occidentaux, en particulier, sur le fait que plusieurs états membres ne paient pas leur contribution à l'ONU, ce qui affaiblit l'organisation. On pointe du doigt, principalement les politiques américaines que l'on considère irresponsables. Cette attitude des États-Unis mine les efforts de l'ONU, voire même limite la qualité de ses interventions.

- À partir du moment où il y aura un accord sur des objectifs, il faudra se donner un délai, un an par exemple, pour faire la critique de ce qui a été entrepris à Montréal, pour revoir notre solidarité. Il est essentiel que tous, nous travaillions ensemble à partir de la base jusqu'au plus hauts niveaux.
- La société civile doit se donner les moyens de faire connaître son message que l'on veut simple. Sa formulation doit exprimer les principes et les objectifs énoncés et adoptés par l'ensemble des participants. Il doit aussi refléter l'esprit qui se dégage de la rencontre de Montréal.

Ann Pettifor of Jubilee 2000 stated that democratic discipline can be tough, but is essential against the abuse of power and threat of tyranny. Pointing out that the world has "freedom of money and barriers to people," Pettifor stressed the need to get capital flows under democratic control. She called for an international insolvency process, discipline for bad lenders and bad borrowers, and an independent arbitrator between sovereign debtors and sovereign creditors. "How do we get a change in the balance of power between creditors and debtors?" she asked. "Through integrated oversight by an accountable UN of the three pillars of land, labour and capital."

Pettifor said it is essential for participants to take ideas home with them and engage in direct advocacy, targeting "our own governments and not just international bodies." She said the IMF is only a bureaucracy, whose

*continued on page 14
suite à la page 14*



Le message de Montréal : l'esprit de Montréal

Le millénaire qui naîtra bientôt ne sera pas celui des gens qui se contentent du monde tel qu'il est, de ceux qui jettent un oeil impassible sur les problèmes universels, des couards et des timides devant les nouvelles idées et les projets hardis. Il appartiendra, au contraire, aux personnes capables de combiner passion, raison et courage dans la poursuite de leurs idéaux de justice, de solidarité et de démocratie.

La société civile a établi sa crédibilité en tant que source de leadership responsable, exigeant l'action plutôt que les discours pour remédier aux défaillances de ce monde qui est le nôtre. Représentant des organisations nationales, régionales et internationales comptant des millions de personnes des quatre coins de la planète, nous nous sommes rassemblés à Montréal du 7 au 11 décembre 1999, en des temps marqués de changements sans précédent sur les plans social et économique. Nous sommes venus discuter de la création de partenariats pour la gouvernance mondiale et proposer des mesures concrètes visant le renforcement des Nations unies pour le mieux-être de l'humanité.

Faisant bon accueil à la diversité, nous avons su trouver des façons de nous engager dans des partenariats au sein des organisations de la société civile, du système des Nations unies, des États et du monde des affaires, de même que dans des partenariats rapprochant ces différents acteurs.

Nous avons insisté pour que les valeurs et les principes humains enchâssés dans la Charte des Nations unies, ses traités et les accords de ses sommets mondiaux restent au cœur même des principes qui nous guident pour tirer parti de la mondialisation.

Nous avons tous convenu que la sécurité et la paix auxquelles nous aspirons pour l'humanité ne se limitent pas à l'absence de conflits armés, de discrimination ou d'exclusion. Nous aspirons à la création d'un réseau d'harmonie, au sein des sociétés et entre les sociétés, réseau tissé de justice sociale, d'interdépendance économique et de coopération politique. Nous avons reconnu que le développement humain durable constituera le défi systémique le plus important à relever au cours du prochain siècle et que les changements technologiques portent en eux autant de possibilités que de menaces.

Nous avons débattu de maintes questions brûlantes et des défis à relever en matière de partenariats pour en venir à une série de recommandations sur ce qu'il convient maintenant d'accomplir.

Nous croyons que la participation de la société civile à la planification et à la prise de décisions n'est plus seulement une possibilité à envisager; elle constitue désormais un volet essentiel de la gouvernance. Nous savons que c'est la solidité, l'imputabilité et la démocratie des gouvernements, de même que la force du système des Nations unies, qui nous permettront d'aller de l'avant.

L'établissement de partenariats de gouvernance mondiale n'est cependant pas une fin en elle-même, ce n'est qu'un moyen de parvenir au bien-être de l'humanité. Ce moyen constitue dans son essence même un défi sans cesse renouvelé, un appel à l'effort sans relâche, au dévouement indéfectible, elle nous pousse à établir de nouveaux objectifs susceptibles de combler les besoins des générations montantes.

Nous repartons avec la conviction que nos efforts vont vraiment contribuer à l'avènement d'un monde meilleur.

** Version présentée en session plénière le 10 décembre 1999 après-midi.*



Mensaje de Montreal: El espíritu de Montreal

En los albores del nuevo milenio se hace cada vez más patente que los próximos 100 años no pertenecerán a quienes se sientan satisfechos con la realidad actual, se muestren apáticos frente a problemas comunes, y tímidos y temerosos ante nuevas ideas y proyectos audaces. El nuevo milenio será patrimonio de quienes puedan conjugar pasión, razón y coraje en la consecución de los ideales de justicia, solidaridad y democracia.

La sociedad civil ha podido establecerse como fuente de liderazgo responsable que ha exigido acciones concretas antes que palabras vacías para erradicar las imperfecciones de este mundo. Nosotros, que representamos a organizaciones nacionales, regionales e internacionales de millones de personas de todo el mundo, nos reunimos en Montreal del 7 al 11 de diciembre de 1999, en momentos en que tienen lugar cambios sociales y económicos sin precedentes. Llegamos a Montreal a debatir la creación de partenariados de gobernabilidad y la generación de un apoyo activo a unas Naciones Unidas más fortalecidas en aras del bienestar de la humanidad.

Hemos llegado a Montreal apoyando la diversidad e identificando al mismo tiempo maneras de formar partenariados, no solamente en el seno de organizaciones de la sociedad civil, el sistema de Naciones Unidas y el sector empresarial, sino también entre dichas entidades.

Hemos hecho hincapié en que los valores humanos y principios afincados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, tratados y acuerdos de conferencias mundiales deben convertirse en los principios rectores a la hora de aprovechar los beneficios de la mundialización.

Llegamos al consenso de que la seguridad y la paz humanas que buscamos no consisten simplemente en la ausencia de conflictos armados, discriminación y exclusión, sino que se trata de la creación, tanto en el seno de las sociedades como entre ellas mismas, de vínculos de unidad donde se hagan patentes la justicia social, la interdependencia económica y la cooperación política. Hemos reconocido que el desarrollo humano sostenible será el principal desafío sistémico en el próximo siglo y que el cambio tecnológico vendrá acompañado tanto de oportunidades como de amenazas.

Hemos deliberado sobre muchas de las cuestiones acuciantes a las que nos enfrentamos y sobre los desafíos de los partenariados con el fin de elaborar una serie de recomendaciones para los próximos pasos que debemos dar.

Creemos que la participación de la sociedad civil en la planificación y la toma de decisiones ha dejado de ser una opción para convertirse en un elemento esencial de la gobernabilidad. Sabemos que la existencia de gobiernos sólidos, democráticos y conscientes de la importancia de la rendición de cuentas, así como de un sistema de Naciones Unidas fortalecido, serán palancas que nos harán avanzar.

Con todo, el partenariado en la gobernabilidad mundial no constituye un fin en sí mismo, sino un medio para alcanzar el bienestar de la humanidad. Se trata, por naturaleza, de un desafío que se transforma constantemente, un llamado a realizar esfuerzos incansables, a mostrar dedicación renovada y al logro de nuevas metas para satisfacer las necesidades de las generaciones futuras.

Partimos de Montreal con la certeza de que nuestros esfuerzos contribuirán a lograr un mundo mejor.

** Versión presentada en la plenaria el 10 de diciembre 1999 en la tarde.*



Montreal Message: The Spirit of Montreal

As a new millennium dawns, it will not belong to those who are content with today, apathetic towards common problems, timid and fearful in the face of new ideas and bold projects. Rather it will belong to those who can blend passion, reason, and courage in the pursuit of the ideals of justice, solidarity and democracy.

Civil society has established itself as a source of responsible leadership that demands action rather than words to address the imperfections of this world. We, who represent national, regional and international organizations of millions of people all over the world, gathered in Montreal on 7-11 December 1999, at a time of escalating challenges of economic, cultural, political and environmental justice, peace and sustainability. We came to design and build global governance partnerships and a stronger United Nations for the sake of human well-being.

We arrived embracing diversity of gender, race and class, and yet identified ways to engage in partnerships among and between civil society organizations, the UN system, States, local government, and the business sector.

We believe that government has the responsibility to create an enabling environment, which is a prerequisite for an active and vibrant civil society. We advocate full and equal participation of women at all levels of governance and integrating a gender perspective and youth participation in all activities.

We call for the reassertion of human values over money values, and the subordination of trade and finance rules to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, treaties and world conference agreements. The negative impacts of economic globalization demand an urgent response. Civil society will work with strong, accountable and democratic governments and a strong United Nations at the centre of global governance for equity, human rights and sustainability.

We seek human security and peace beyond the absence of armed conflict, discrimination and exclusion. Security is the creation within and among societies of a web of unity, woven from social justice, economic interdependence, and political co-operation. We recognized that sustainable human development will be the major systemic challenge in the coming century and that technological change presents both opportunities and threats.

We believe that the participation of civil society in planning and decision-making is no longer an option, but an essential part of governance. We call on intergovernmental institutions for global governance, both within and outside the UN system, to operate through transparent decision-making processes, including mechanisms for the participation of civil society.

However, partnership in global governance is not an end in itself but a means to achieve the well-being of humanity. It is by nature an ever-changing challenge, a call to untiring effort, to renewed dedication, and to new goals to meet the needs of each new generation.

We deliberated on many of the pressing issues which face us and the challenges of partnerships in order to develop a series of recommendations for next steps. We leave with the commitment to translate these recommendations into action and the conviction that our efforts will contribute to a better world.

** Final version based on plenary input, December 10, 1999*



continued from page 11
suite de la page 11

board of directors is driven by our governments. In this light, targeting the IMF lets the real decision-makers off the hook. She added that it would be useful to take messages to international fora and help participants stay in touch with each other. "We can't leave excellent ideas hanging in the air," she concluded.

"When will action come?" was a question that Wangari Maathai heard often at the conference, especially from younger participants. She replied that "what we take home in our own hearts" is very important, adding that action comes through networking and partnerships. She also underscored the important role of civil society in shaping the future UN.

Maathai thanked the partners who had made the conference possible, such as the Québec government, which provided a welcoming and enabling environment. She added that she had sensed a great deal of solidarity in committees, working groups and plenaries.

Based on her own networking experiences in Nairobi, Maathai added that "the real action comes in sharing those moments when we sit across from one another at the table and realize that we are working towards common goals, or that we have shared values." She urged participants to "take the Montreal Message and translate it into some action within your network. We can't just put it in a library - it must be in our hearts, our heads and our minds."

Dianne Dillon-Ridgley of the World YWCA called for participants to understand, cultivate and work on processes and structures to improve the outcomes of their actions. Noting that how we define ourselves is important, she noted that "non-profit" is a definition in the negative, and suggested describing civil society organizations as engaging in social profit. "Social profit is as imperative as economic viability," she said.

She commented on the danger of civil society organizations becoming a part of what she called an incestuous community. "If we all know each other, the circle is not large enough," she said, noting that even those in the civil society community can get comfortable within institutional frameworks.

The ongoing challenge, she stated, is to reinforce the moral authority of NGOs, perhaps through an NGO code of ethics. "We need the moral authority to respond to

states who challenge us by asking who we represent. We need structures which allow us to answer."

Dillon-Ridgley presented several recommendations for concrete action, some of which had come out of workshops. Her list included a global visa granting process, to help deal with the problems of international networking and consultation. Since translation difficulties often compromise the quality of CSO work and limit participation, she suggested that NGOs establish a pro bono translation service, extending beyond the five UN languages to cover 500 world languages. Such a service could also help demystify the jargon so often used by CSOs.

The Montreal Message

The Montreal message was read and discussion of the draft text followed. While calling the document elegantly written and noting that the spirit is more important than textual details, several delegates were concerned that the text did not do enough to reflect the "power of what has occurred here over the last three days".

To give the statement more teeth, the following addition was proposed:

"We call upon all intergovernmental institutions for global governance, both within and outside the UN system, to operate through transparent decision-making processes, including mechanisms for the participation of civil society."

A representative of the women's caucus read a statement regarding the Russian military's ultimatum in Chechnya. The youth caucus read a statement calling for more participation by youth in civil society organizations and decision-making.

It was suggested that paragraph four be deleted and replaced by a statement about placing human values over money values. Another delegate stressed the importance of not being complicit with the neo-liberal agenda. "If we plant trees, let us make sure on which ground and for whom we plant," he said.

It was proposed that "local government" be added to paragraph three. A francophone delegate said the french version of the text could use some polishing to make it more inclusive. There was also a call for a reference to a code of conduct.

Ritchie said he was infused with energy by what he had heard, and expressed his commitment to do his "level best to redo the

message" according to the desires of the plenary. The corrected message, with additions, will be posted on the WOCSOC website at <www.wocsoc.org>.

Mme Louise Harel, ministre d'état à la métropole dans le gouvernement québécois, fait état des espoirs enclenchés par la rencontre de Montréal. Cette rencontre qui a permis la proclamation de principes et d'objectifs pour l'amélioration de la condition des hommes, des femmes et des enfants à travers le monde.

Le partenariat entre les gouvernements, l'ONU et la société civile est une formule inédite. Elle souligne que le concept date du XIXe siècle mais que l'idée vient aussi loin que de la civilisation de la Grèce antique. Au départ, il s'agissait de contrer l'exclusion de la société d'état pour favoriser pleinement la citoyenneté. Aujourd'hui, elle vise à contrer l'exclusion du citoyen engendrée par la libéralisation des marchés. Il y a une augmentation du rôle des marchés internationaux alors que les économies nationales sont réduites. On observe un déficit démocratique.

Il faut remplir le vide causé par cette situation économique pour ne pas éliminer l'état. Il faut faire de l'état un partenaire majeur dans le partenariat. Le gouvernement est ainsi appelé à concevoir la démocratisation comme étant participative et cela serait impossible sans la société civile et les ONG. Au Québec, les ONG sont un héritage des premières coopératives qui ont vu le jour, il y a cent ans

Ce n'est pas par hasard que la rencontre ait lieu à Montréal, « parce qu'ici la société civile est très active » dit Mme Nancy Neamtam, représentante de RESO et responsable du Chantier de l'économie sociale. « Votre présence, dit-elle, montre que nous sommes des millions à travers le monde qui travaillons à l'amélioration de la société civile ». Cependant, il y a encore beaucoup trop d'enfants qui ne mangent pas à leur faim ou qui n'ont pas de logement. Cela existe même dans une endroit aussi riche que le Québec.

Mme Neamtam invite les participants aux visites thématiques de terrains le lendemain, qui leur permettront de rencontrer et de partager avec des gens qui ont les mêmes espoirs et les mêmes buts qu'eux. Notre force, on la puise avec ceux et celles qui travaillent sur le terrain. Il faut nous engager dans une mobilisation de la solidarité.



Workshop #1:

Erosion of state sovereignty

States provide context for civil society

While agreeing on the importance of strong, well-organized civil society organizations, participants in the workshop on the erosion of national sovereignty stressed the vital role of the state in creating a positive, responsible environment for development and human rights.

States establish a framework of security and basic rules, and civil society cannot occupy that particular space on its own, session moderator Jacqueline Nkoyok of CONGAC told participants. Both in developing countries and the industrialized north, she said the state creates an environment and context in which civil society can express itself.

Earlier in the session, Nkoyok warned that international frameworks like the Multilateral Agreement on Investment make it virtually impossible for national investors to survive against large multinational corporations. But there is growing pressure to manage the world through capital alone, an approach that saps local economies, silences the majority of the population, and forces communities into abject poverty.

A participant said the problem might be as broad as the erosion of the sovereignty of society, noting that poor people in industrialized countries often fare worse than their counterparts in the developing world. While it's important to acknowledge the disparities and selfish distribution of wealth among continents, she said civil society must focus on human development right around the world.

Another audience member noted that the U.S. Defense Secretary had closed deals for \$22 billion in new military exports during a recent visit to the Middle East, when the money could have been used to contribute to development and peace in the region.

He added that some states have responded to the concept of civil society by establishing government-organized NGOs, or GONGOs. "If there's a civil society, they would like to have it under their umbrella."

A participant noted that her own country, Angola, had experienced "extraordinary suffering", and described Africa as a continent that has been "held hostage by international discourse". While European models are often used as a basic standard for the development of civil society, she said the governments that might be expected to support the process are the ones that currently torture their own citizens.

The participant asked whether the plenary presentations that opened the conference would translate into behaviour change on the part of UN agencies. "We need to know what kind of UN we want," she said. "It's now an organization of united governments, not nations. Maybe that's a theme we have to look at."

"We're a governmental, scientific and technical organization, so we do have very effective communication with NGOs in the same specialty. Here, it's a different story, because in politics and trade, NGOs aren't recognized. For us, they've been recognized for many years – we've developed global experiments and joint programs together. Traditionally in my sector, there has been a free and unrestricted exchange of data and information, because our work can't be done within one country."

– Geneva, Switzerland

Atelier #28 :

La coopération inter-sectorielle

Avant tout, des objectifs précis

L'aide humanitaire exige souvent le regroupement d'individus ou de groupes dans le but d'une action commune. Rassemblés en une coalition, les groupes doivent se poser au moins trois questions dont les réponses serviront à définir la stratégie d'intervention.

Pourquoi faut-il une coalition ?
Comment celle-ci fonctionnera-t-elle ?
et Quel défi doit-elle affronter ?

D'après les participants d'un atelier le 9 décembre, la coalition sert avant tout à l'atteinte d'un objectif précis

dont la durée ne devrait pas s'étirer trop longtemps. Pour réussir, elle demande un programme clair accompagné d'une stratégie bien définie où le rôle de chacun des partenaires est connu des autres. Elle peut aussi servir au partage d'informations et de services afin de réduire les pertes de temps et d'énergie nécessaires à la réalisation de l'objectif.

On note qu'il y a plusieurs formes de coalition. Certaines ont des activités qui se limitent à l'intérieur de la région ou du pays où elles se créent. D'autres, souvent plus

suite à la page 16



Workshop #31:

Lessons from Seattle

Participants stress NGOs' 'moral weight'

In the aftermath of the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle, participants exploring the lessons from Seattle agreed that NGOs' everyday ethical and fair trade choices lend moral weight to the effort to democratize the WTO, while representing a small direct contribution to fairer trade.

"It's not enough to make demands of government – we must act ethically ourselves," a group member stated.

The group agreed on the need to assess the impact of previous trade agreements. "We know trade deals are good for the economy," a participant said, but "we don't know their value in the broader context of humanity." It was suggested that trade deals may be responsible for increasing the gulf between rich and poor, both between and within nations, though further information might be needed on this point.

Participants expressed opposing views on the WTO's dispute settlement mechanisms. One line of thought considers the WTO secretive, lacking in accountability, and unconcerned with anything but trade. It was pointed out that trade treaties are signed which do not conform with other international treaties – which can present a serious problem, since the WTO is enforceable and other treaties may not be. Those who feel the WTO needs to be subjugated to the UN suggested World Court or International Court of Justice oversight.

The alternative view is that nations created the WTO to be what it is. Governments agreed to the WTO, but then refused to abide by the procedures they had accepted. In this view, the responsibility for unfair trade practices rests with nation states, and another level of appeal would make the process even more costly and time-consuming for developing nations. Both sides approved of a "precautionary principle" which would bolster sovereignty and allow governments to restrict trade based on the risk of harm, and not only when such harm is proven beyond any doubt.

The group worked to fine-tune the wording in Statement 2.2 of the WOCOSOC briefing paper, in search of a structure which would allow the UN to apply principles of equity, environmental protection and other international agreements to trade deals. One goal, a participant said, should be to "eliminate the ability of trade laws to overturn national laws protecting health and the environment."

"I'm here with another partner from the Huairou Commission to share the different projects and activities that we've been developing, based on strategic partnerships between grassroot women's organizations, local authorities, governments, and UN agencies. We want to make sure that the commitments undertaken by governments, especially at Habitat 2 and Beijing, will be fulfilled."

– Montréal, Canada

suite de la page 15

larges, interviennent à l'échelle internationale. La coopération horizontale semble être la formule qui respecte le mieux les particularités de chacun des groupes.

La création d'une coalition dans le but d'une action locale peut devenir d'intérêt plus grand et se transposer à d'autres niveaux. Dans ce cas, il importe de partir de la base, d'établir des liens de confiance à chaque niveau d'intervention. Quoiqu'il en soit, la coalition ne devrait en aucun temps embrasser plus d'une cause. Elle perdra ses moyens et souvent sa crédibilité.

Parmi les difficultés que rencontre la coalition, on note le manque de financement, de ressources humaines et souvent de temps pour mettre sur pied un partenariat efficace. De plus, ces mouvements font fréquemment face à des contraintes politiques, soit dans le pays d'origine, soit dans le pays où l'on désire intervenir.

La sécurité des participants est un autre point dont il faut tenir compte, en particulier lorsque l'action humanitaire a lieu dans un pays en guerre, ou qu'il existe une structure parallèle "fantôme" contrôlant souvent les organes officiels.

La coalition ne devrait pas exister plus longtemps que le temps nécessaire à la réalisation de ses objectifs.

L'émergence d'un leader fort, au sein de celle-ci, et l'identification précise des vrais interlocuteurs sont un gage de réussite. Ceux qui prennent réellement les décisions affectant les buts de la coalition ne sont pas toujours les personnages officiels qui signent les engagements.

Enfin, quelque soit la démarche et l'objectif de la coalition, il ne faut pas perdre de vue sa raison d'être. Ne jamais oublier le pourquoi et le comment.

Quant au financement, on propose de créer un Fonds de la société civile. Cependant, la vigilance est de mise afin de maintenir l'indépendance des organisations participantes.



Atelier #19 :

Une ONU plus efficace, plus forte

Un 'club fermé' qui représente un obstacle majeure

La restructuration de l'ONU ne fait pas de doute. Elle devrait même tendre vers un véritable gouvernement global afin de contrôler le grand nombre d'activités économiques qui sont hors d'atteinte des états membres. Tout ce qui se transige sur l'Internet n'est qu'un exemple. Cela a souvent pour conséquence de créer des abus et d'appauvrir des régions partout dans le monde. La réforme n'est pas vue comme un choix. Mais, il faut trouver la façon d'y arriver. Et elle doit aller dans le sens d'une démocratisation pour accentuer le contact avec les citoyens.

Il faut éviter que l'organisation soit marginalisée comme ce fut le cas récemment à Seattle au sommet de l'OMC. Le travail et le rôle de l'ONU sont mal connus. On suggère deux avenues pour amener les changements vers une plus grande justice mondiale et le respect des droits humains.

La première concerne le rôle des ONG. Celles-ci devraient agir au niveau local, municipal pour commencer et graduellement en arriver au gouvernement national. Par la suite, au sein de la société civile, on doit développer une stratégie globale que l'on appliquera au niveau national. Il faut que les actions individuelles se fassent de concert et que la stratégie soit transparent pour être en mesure de témoigner de ce qui se fait dans chacun des pays.

La deuxième avenue touche principalement les groupes de jeunes. Ils ont beaucoup de préoccupations écologiques, économiques et sociales. De plus, ils savent s'organiser rapidement et efficacement. Cependant, ils ne se reconnaissent pas dans l'ONU. Il leur faudrait un leader charismatique. Le Secrétaire-général devrait jouer ce rôle pour ne pas les marginaliser.

La transformation sera difficile et longue parce que ce sont les états membres qui décident de la marche à suivre. Et là, l'influence du club fermé qu'est le conseil de sécurité représente un obstacle majeur. Ce sont ces pays qu'il faut commencer à convaincre de la nécessité de la réforme.

Outre les intentions louables du Secrétaire-général, celui-ci représente aussi les milliers d'employés de l'ONU. C'est une bureaucratie pour qui la réforme représente une grande incertitude. C'est une dimension qu'il ne faut pas négliger.

Enfin, il faudrait que les pays en développement forment un bloc ayant des objectifs communs pour contrer l'influence notoire des États-Unis sur l'ONU. En boutade pour la conclusion, on suggère que le secrétariat général quitte New-York. Peut-être qu'un changement d'environnement serait bénéfique !

Workshop #18: Capacity building session stresses resources, partnerships

Leadership, financial sustainability and strategic partnerships are critical to civil society organizations, agreed participants in the workshop on capacity building. For southern CSOs, the issue of freedom from dependency on northern organizations also comes into play.

Workshop leader Chandan Datta of the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) led participants in a discussion of their experiences working in or with CSOs. Beyond financial backing, capacity building also encompasses educational support and the development of participatory programs in training, research and evaluation, he said.

A participant said access to resources is crucial, noting that funding is needed to train staff and to help CSOs find resources to realize their vision. Sustaining leadership can also be a challenge. People in CSOs often work as volunteers or are underpaid, so that many are forced to leave for better-paying jobs in the private sector. Another audience member said capacity building can sometimes be a balancing act between improving the internal management of an organization and strengthening partnerships with government, private organizations and donors. It is also important to identify the roles of the donors, beneficiaries and CSOs.

Partnerships must be strategic and equitable, the group stressed. One participant stressed that CSOs must not to lose their identity, values, goals or vision as a result of recognizing the support or involvement of others. Another audience member said this issue is particularly pertinent for southern CSOs, which often rely on support from their northern counterparts. It is important to form effective lateral relations that do not

continued on page 18



Workshop #7:

Copenhagen follow-ups fall short

« Je déplore l'absence de traduction dans les ateliers. C'est une barrière pour plusieurs participants en provenance d'Afrique, par exemple. Par ailleurs, il faut développer une stratégie pour sensibiliser les médias, pour faire connaître les idées et les actions de la société civile ».

– Montréal, Canada

continued from page 18

compete for endowment from the north, she said.

Participants also discussed government funding and its impact on CSO autonomy. Sometimes government funding implies an obligation not to challenge the government, and some governments see this as an opportunity for control, one delegate said. Another talked about the practice of funding countries that are considered "sexy" at a particular point in time. An audience member said many CSOs in the north impose their vision on southern CSOs, adding that partnerships must start with the grassroots.

The group questioned whether complete financial sustainability should be a goal for CSOs, especially since income-generating projects may result in the loss of not-for-profit status. Participants agreed that transparency, accountability and democracy are essential for CSOs, noting that an in-house tracking system can offer long-term benefits by showing where actions are going and the results they yield. This, in turn, can help ensure continued funding for the organization.

Participants in the workshop on the poverty agenda and social development gave overviews of some of the issues and challenges faced by NGOs and other civil society bodies in relation to social development. There was general agreement that governments in many parts of the world have fallen short or failed in their efforts to address the commitments of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen.

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank came under criticism for putting short-term economic objectives ahead of long-term social development priorities. The acceptance of the doctrine of less government and less governmental intervention has meant the environment, public health and social concerns are ignored. While policies at the top of these financial institutions may be changing, participants said practices in the field are not. "It will take at least five years for changes to work their way through a huge organization," one delegate suggested. There were calls for the financial institutions to report to bodies like ECOSOC on their efforts in social and human development.

The group agreed that indicators and targets like a country's Gross National Product and unemployment figures are not reflective of social reality, since they fail to reflect health,

education, the status of women and other disadvantaged groups and the environment. Participants stressed the need for real targets, a clear time frame and concrete actions – not just methodology. Worldwide standards would give developing governments goals to reach, and provide wealthy nations with ways to judge whether they are doing enough to help.

The role of ECOSOC was discussed, with participants suggesting that the body could be more powerful than it is within the UN system. A key challenge is to determine how to include the excluded and disadvantaged. "Stop asking 'what can we do for them?'" said one delegate. "Instead, ask 'how can we help them to participate?'"

The group expressed concern about governments that try to hinder NGOs through legislation and other means, and stressed the importance of debt cancellation or renegotiation for developing countries. Participants agreed on the need for NGOs to communicate with each other and coordinate efforts to work towards social and economic structures that will achieve the goals of social development. Discussion also touched on the links between economic and social development, and on the need for political leaders to commit to eradicating poverty.

"As always, the real work is in the corridors. And the hot topic in the corridors is how to get the message from this conference to governments, and also how to get it out to those who aren't here."

– New York, USA



ATELIER UN :

L'Erosion de la souveraineté de l'état et l'émergence de la société civile: droits, responsabilités et rôle en mutation

Président d'atelier : Jacqueline Nkoyok

L'émergence d'une société civile n'exclut pas l'existence d'un état de droit. La société civile et l'état doivent travailler ensemble à bâtir un partenariat à travers lequel chacune des instances gardent son autonomie. Des liens doivent aussi se tenir entre les sociétés civiles des différents pays ainsi qu'avec les nations unies et les multinationales.

La société civile a besoin d'avoir accès aux ressources publiques pour assumer son rôle qui est de faire valoir les intérêts des citoyens et de participer à l'élaboration des politiques. Il est nécessaire de créer un fond d'appui aux sociétés civiles pour préserver leur autonomie afin qu'elles puissent jouer le rôle de contrepoids face aux gouvernements et relever ensemble les défis du 3e millénaire.

WORKSHOP TWO:

Is a 'World Environmental Organization' (WEO) necessary? Is a 'World Sustainable Development Organization' necessary?

Leader: Troy Davis

We recognize that some environmental problems are global in nature and therefore require global solutions. We know that present global institutional mechanisms do not address these problems as effectively as they should, both as far as expectations of the general public and as far as the speed and the scale in which they need to be resolved. Therefore we need a legally enforceable global mechanism which would include a World Environmental Authority. To insure the needed legitimacy of this mechanism, it should be established by a global democratic process. We also discussed the potential establishments of a global legislature and a global environmental court.

WORKSHOP THREE:

Economic decision-making: redesigning the international financial architecture. What role for the UN system; what role for civil society?

Leader: Ann Pettifor

We propose: mobilising political will and academic expertise for integrating oversight - by a democratically accountable UN - over three key pillars of the international economy: land (biosphere); labour and capital. Reviewing a) the Charter of the UN; and b) mandates of the IFIs and WTO - in light of agreements by UN Summits. Integrated oversight to be a goal of NGOs. In addition a) an international insolvency court; b) provision for local and regional integrated oversight - through referenda; c) the collection of a Tobin Tax by the UN; d) introduction of capital controls; and e) new means of financing development.

WORKSHOPS FOUR AND EIGHT:

Beyond institutions: the internet and global consensus decision-making

Leader: Kumi Naidoo

The explosion of ICT in the last five years has increased the amount of knowledge available and pushes toward transparency and accountability. But there is need to be circumspect about the expectations of the potential of the technology especially for development. Civil Society Organizations should be involved in the development of the technology as well as participate in the policy-making process.

Websites should be created for the posting of feedback to the UN system. However it was acknowledged that mailing lists have greater impact and reach than websites. CSOs need to organize specific sites that direct people to useful and good information on the internet.

WORKSHOP FIVE:

CSOs as peacemakers, peace builders, peace educators

Leader: Thérèse Bouchard

Workshop participants were challenged to brainstorm recommendations that could be practically adopted in 1-2 years. Building on prevention, participants recommended: the collection of resources, tools, best practices, to be available online; the creation of scholarships to encourage peace-oriented research internationally; the building of partnerships with parliamentary organizations; the building of linkages with youth organizations; the building of ties with media and the training of journalists; the promotion of longterm programs and solutions.

All participants agreed that education and training are the key components of prevention and peace-building. CSOs must act as role models of peace education that find collaborative rather than competitive means of building a culture of peace.

WORKSHOP SIX:

Under what conditions can CSOs organize effectively for intergovernmental negotiations; lessons from Summits of the 1990s

Leader: Jing De La Rosa

Recognizing best practices achieved in different international fora over time (e.g. Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Sessions), there is an urgent need to:

- Identify and build from these experiences,
- Bridge the gap between international negotiations and national/local CSOs' access to and participation in these processes.

We therefore propose to:

1. Strengthen regional coalitions that promote horizontal cooperation across different sectors, and



2. Ensure that national and local CSOs are engaged in the processes leading up to international negotiations.

Specific strategies:

1. Mobilize resources to ensure that national and local CSOs can fully participate, including collection of data and analysis that give them credibility to be heard by their own communities and governments and by the international communities.

2. Establish mechanisms (e.g. via the media or direct influential policy-makers) that encourage local concerns to be voiced which can provide invaluable early warnings about imminent problems.

WORKSHOP SEVEN:

The poverty agenda, Copenhagen+5: putting social development centre stage

Leader: Stephen King

The special session must recognize the importance of: Linking economic and social development; the widest participation of civil society organizations in the review, particularly women's organizations; and promoting awareness of the summit commitments to a wider public audience.

Furthermore, specific recommendations arose:

1) Strengthening the effectiveness of the ECOSOC system. Including through more effective reporting arrangements from the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO and greater opportunities for participation by CSOs.

2) A global anti poverty pact involving adoption of the OECD international targets together with specific commitments to improve ODA, debt relief and other specified financial resources by identified target dates.

3) Improve processes of the World Bank, WTO and IMF.

WORKSHOP SEVEN (SPANISH)

Leader: Gonzalo Abad-Ortiz

1) A pessimistic assessment of poverty evaluation in the region was formulated; government policies have not been able to prioritize poverty alleviation nor social policies. Alternative methods were stressed: decentralization, local governance, focusing on education and eradicating corruption were discussed as important features of civil society entry points.

2) Suggestions of future endeavours: a) concretize partnership with the UN system by means of: i) massive (popular) diffusion of the contents of Social Summit in order to increment participation in cooperation with SCOs and UN system. ii) inclusion of SCOs in national planning exercises conducted by the UN system... b) Increase importance of SCOs participation in Copenhagen +5...

WORKSHOP NINE:

Civil Society and the Security Council : new involvement ?

Co-Leaders: Geoffrey Pearson, Alexandre Kamarotos

The workshop proposed :

1. To grant NGOs a consultative status with the Security Council (similar to those in ECOSOC). Immediate access to the SC's debates of the Security Council on the protection of civilians could be a concrete step towards a wider implication of NGOs in SC's agenda.

2. To create a *Committee of independent experts* as a subsidiary body of the Security Council in order to evaluate humanitarian situations including early warning. This Committee shall base its evaluations on indicators of vulnerability of populations and other indicators concerning threats to peace and human security. Its reports and recommendations should be transmitted to the SC for action.

3. To mobilize a vast citizen's movement, at the local, national and international level, in favor of this initiative as well as

for the creation of a "Citizen's Security Council".

4. To call for the reform of the SC (more transparency, restrict veto, membership expansion with regional criteria...).

5. Channels these proposals for a new involvement of Civil Society in the SC's agenda through the Millenium Forum and the Millenium Assembly.

WORKSHOP TEN:

Does Civil Society need stronger governments and stronger parliaments to preserve the global commons?

Leader: Hripsime Nazaretian

The answer of the workshop participants is "Yes," as civil society cannot do without strong government to serve the common public good.

Starting with definitions of an ideal democratic society, with its three equally balanced and developed sectors (state, market and civil society), they revealed the role players, their functions and predominant forms of power. They agreed on a definition of civil society and clarified the meaning of "strong government" as: "responsive, accountable and transparent, serving the public good with free, just and transparent elections and adequate resources.

WORKSHOP ELEVEN:

Beyond 'Summits': Are the '+5's, the '+10's' and work with the UN commissions generating enough mobilisation with CSOs and political will with governments

Leader: Manisha Desai

1) ...civil society actors should take a leading role in disseminating the various programs of actions to the local governmental and community level in the experiential language of the people even as they pressure their governments to ratify and implement those international agreements. Towards this end, we support the Millennium Forum and the People's Assembly as mechanisms to



facilitate this process at the local level.

2) ...we recommend that various civil society actors pressure their governments to pay dues to the UN and ensure its ability to act.

3) We recommend a multilevel, multisectoral, multiactor process of global governance that makes the private sector accountable to the people by developing a code of conduct for the MNCs, enforceable by the UN.

4) Civil society actors should be made part of the routine democratic process...

ATELIER DOUZE :

Le *Patrimoine mondial* : défi posé par les nouvelles technologies de l'information et de génie génétique

Président d'atelier : *Marisha Wojciechowska*

1) Créer des réseaux de solidarité et de soutien entre organismes de la société civile, en marge des gouvernements, dans le but de soutenir ceux qui militent courageusement dans des conditions souvent difficiles. 2) Amener les gouvernements à accepter de partager leur pouvoir afin que la société civile puisse exercer une plus grande influence sur les décisions. 3) Changer notre vocabulaire et obliger les dirigeants à reprendre un langage politique et humain, pour s'éloigner des mots et symboles économiques présentement véhiculés (tel que compétitivité et profit). 4) Exiger un parlement mondiale, responsable de ses actions. 5) Obliger les gouvernements à imposer l'étiquetage des produits...

WORKSHOP THIRTEEN:

Human Rights: a) Strengthening international jurisdictions b) Protecting human rights defenders c) Making the Universal meaningful to the Local

Leader: *François Musy*

1) As regards the UN Commission on Human Rights: a) diffuse awareness of the current campaign to 'reform' the

commission, which would reduce its power and efficiency. b) Lobby for the strengthening of the UNCHR. c) lobby for adequate funding to UNCHR.

2) Lobby for ratification of human rights treaties, including: a) The International Criminal Court and b) the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. And support the ICRC campaign for small arms control.

WORKSHOP FOURTEEN:

Incorporating economic and social justice in Sustainable Human Development: goals and means

Leader: *Dianne Dillon-Ridgley*

We focused on mechanisms to eliminate the impediments to achieving socially and economically just sustainable development.

Some of the means include: a) the challenges of language: 1) creating a global NGO network that will simplify the jargon and reach directly to the community level; 2) creating an NGO that will provide pro bono translation services in all languages. b) the impediments to participation: 1) by creating an international process to guarantee the granting of visas; 2) by pushing to create adequate funding from NGOs, government, philanthropic and private sectors. The third millennium will require world solidarity, first among NGOs, to eliminate the inequities of globalization that are now becoming apparently.

WORKSHOP FIFTEEN:

Promoting the role of youth in global governance and in achieving economic and social justice

Leader: *AIESEC, UNEP Youth Advisory Council*

1) What are youth currently doing? Youth are highly involved at all levels from the grass roots to the global. 2) What's missing? Implementation of the recommendations of youth. 3) How can we all get involved? We challenge all the participants to enforce previously stalled

recommendations. We invite all interested people to join us, at the registration desk, in continuing this discussion at 6pm tonight (Thursday Dec. 9).

ECOSOC WORKSHOP

Leader: *Michèle Federoff*

The workshop organized by the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations aims at improving and strengthening the NGOs' participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council. The workshop also aims at informing NGOs on the activities of the United Nations and of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It focuses in particular on the implications of the consultative status with the Council and the various ways

NGOs in consultative status may use to participate in the work of the organization of the United Nations in economic and social sectors.

WORKSHOP SEVENTEEN:

A) A genuine International Court of Justice? B) A UN Council on Petitions? C) A UN Global Trusteeship Council?

Leader: *Iris Almeida*

1) With regard to the International Court of Justice:

a) We strongly encourage states to recognize the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court, as provided under the Statute of the ICJ.

b) We urge states to fully cooperate with the ICJ and to respect its jurisdiction.

2) With regard to a renewed Trusteeship Council:

a) The current Trusteeship Council must be replaced by a Human Security Council comprising eminent persons, including civil society representatives.

b) The Human Security Council shall receive petitions, examine problems before they escalate, identify their causes and bring them to the attention



of the Security Council or General Assembly as appropriate, and steer their action.

c) The Human Security Council's mandate shall be to defend the collective interests of humanity, the vulnerable and marginalized, as well as future generations.

3) With regard to the UN General Assembly we advocate the revitalization of the GA and access to it by civil society representatives.

a) The 2000 Millennium Forum held prior to the next GA session should launch a Biennial Civil Society Forum which fosters policy dialogue and strategic alliances among NGOs.

b) The Civil Society Forum should be given Observer Status at the UN General Assembly.

WORKSHOP EIGHTEEN:

Capacity building for CSOs, Southern CSOs: political will, resources, mechanism, democracy within

Leader: Chandan Datta

We agree that CSOs require capacity building (CB); on consensus building, mechanism that encourages interactions, partnerships, methods for developing networks, an ability to influence policy-making, to analyse, reflect and evaluate with a focus on commitment to learning.

There is a need for CB to involve both the individuals as well as organizations, development of people, and facilitate change towards a desired state. CB also addresses issues within CSOs like building competent leaderships which will address the mission into agenda for action, effectively relate the purpose, process and result.

CSOs have rich, diverse experiences. Sharing of these experiences and building knowledge from these is an important area of CB. Sharing should take place at the local to international level in the form of workshops, visits,

peer group learning, joint studies and networking. Finally, developing the leadership capacity of citizen leaders and providing them an opportunity to work is also an important requirement.

WORKSHOP NINETEEN:

Building a relevant, more effective and stronger UN in the new millennium

Leader: John W. Foster

1) Urgent that UN have power to apply norms to way world economy is run. The WTO and the BWIs need to be brought into the fold and up to UN standards of transparency and access. 2) Think broadly, raise ultimate goals even if they are ambitious and long-term. 3) Regular international parliamentary assembly. 4) Use Millennium Forum as basis for ongoing civil society forum. Push now in national capitals. 5) For independent UN funding, Tobin tax useful long term, but short-term air travel tax in a few countries good precedent. Start campaign now. 6) A UN guaranteeing human security. 7) Use high-level meetings between the UN and the BWIs to press accountability to human rights, environment and other norms, press to have the WTO included. 8) Seattle debacle opens opportunity for UN to bring global economic policy inside, either an "economic security council" or a focused ECOSOC. 9) Civil society groups monitor Security Council, report at home, pressure in capitals, particularly the permanent five. 10) Financing for Development process and conference (2001): time for new N/S compact. 11) Press GA to hold countries accountable for human rights conventions, h.r. observers on site, sanctions, leadership. 12) Support Secretary General in making UN effective, encourage SG to highlight economic and social responsibilities of UN. 13) US plays key role. Learn from change strategies - environment groups use of US congress and media to gain changes at the World Bank, the "encirclement" strategy regarding the Land Mines and International Criminal Court

agreements. 14) Press states to reassert priority of Charter. 15) NGO recognition in GA, SC. 16) Use electronics for two-way communication. Use multi-stakeholder groups in capitals to increase participation and commitment in agenda preparation for UN. Bring people experienced in the problem under review to the negotiations. 17) Access, training, communications assistance for electronic communication and poorer NGOs. 18) Keep participation cheap, no fees.

ATELIER VINGT :

Faire de la culture de la paix une réalité mondiale et un code de conduite personnel

Président d'atelier : Esther Kamatari

Recommandations aux Nations-Unies: 1) Les participants ayant considéré que les membres influents du Conseil de sécurité sont ceux qui fabriquent et vendent les armes, le Conseil de sécurité est par conséquent un conseil de la guerre plutôt qu'un conseil de la paix, à la lumière de ce constat les participants proposent que dans le cadre de la Réforme des Nations-Unies, l'ONU considère la création d'un Conseil de la PAIX dont le mécanisme et le mandat pourraient être étudiés. 2) Les Nations-Unies demandent aux Etats-membres de respecter les engagements pris dans le cadre des différentes conférences de N.U.

Propositions aux gouvernements: 1) Demande aux Etats-membres l'intégration de l'éducation de la culture de la paix et de la civilisation mondiale. 2) La révision des manuels d'histoire, l'intégration de l'éducation à la paix dans les programmes de l'enseignement formel et non formelle. 3) Le respect de leur engagement de consacrer 0,7% de leur PIB en faveur d'un développement endogène dans les pays du sud.

La société civile: 1) La mise en place d'un conseil national de la paix. 2) L'organisation de consultation tout à l'échelle locale, régionale qu'internationale, en vue d'examiner les



causes et les différentes conséquences selon les pays de la violence à travers l'action humaine, les thèmes économique, social, culturel et politique.

WORKSHOP TWENTY-ONE:

Local community organizations and local governments: exercising fundamental rights and freedoms; representing the people

Leader: Jacques Jobin

Supporting local government's search for transparency, efficiency and responsiveness is a cause that leads to sustainable improvements in the life of communities. This is a reality everywhere as national governments are more and more forced by society to devolve powers closer to the people.

We emphasize the need for the development of strategic partnerships between local governments and community-based organizations (CBOs) to ensure that specific needs and vision are taken into account in the distribution of resources and services; such as: housing, transportation, safety, access to water, employment, etc.

We also support the promotion and exchange of "Best Practices" in the field of women's issues and other local issues addressed by CBOs at the international level.

Presently a proposed Charter of Local Self-Government is subject to a worldwide process of consultation that would lead to its submission to the UN General Assembly. We welcome and support this initiative.

WORKSHOP TWENTY-TWO:

Capacity of CS to effectively engage in policy formulation

Leaders: Daniel Zielinski, Brook Boyer

The capacity of CS to effectively engage in policy formulation will depend on fostering closer strategic alliances across geographic and organizational boundaries.

Key actions proposed:

1) To develop and enhance the legal and administrative guidelines of CSOs – related to their creation, functioning and association of policy formulation.

2) To foster information gathering, dissemination, exchange, including the development of existing best practices, and success stories (i.e. through the use of new ITs).

3) To promote capacity building, training and education in the areas of expertise as well as in the management of decision-making process.

WORKSHOP TWENTY-THREE:

A Permanent Global People's Assembly (GPA)

Leader: Rob Wheeler

A) To support the efforts of the Millennium People's Assembly Network and to work through the Millennium Forum process to develop a strategy and plan for establishing a permanent GPA through working in partnership with NGOs, civil society, governments, and the United Nations.

B) That through this plan a process be developed for holding GPA sessions in conjunction with existing NGO and civil society events and activities in order to strengthen the ongoing work and build partnerships for improved global governance.

C) To explore and develop options for ongoing selection and representation processes for the permanent GPA.

D) To build on the experiences gained through the Millennium Forum and GPA events and processes to continue to develop the form, content, structure and working processes for local, regional and global assemblies.

WORKSHOP TWENTY-FOUR:

Civil Society Codes of Conduct and Ethics: an inventory, new features, future prospects

Leaders: Tatsuro Kunugi, Martha Schweitz

To pursue: 1) Develop website for codes of conduct collection (FIM?), keep up-to-date, include regular reports of implementation and effects. 2) More focus on NGO/business relations: compile examples, make business more aware of "responsible civil society," FIM(?) hold Sept. conference on business relations with UN and NGOs. 3) National government/NGO working relations, beyond legal status and taxation: draft principles/guidelines for how to use this political space (IF consistent with NGO independence), evaluate existing government/NGO liaison structures. 4) Explore codes of conduct of advocacy NGOs. 5) Inform society about how various actors build partnerships to promote peace and sustainable development. 6) Systemic/holistic approach to all above.

WORKSHOP TWENTY-FIVE:

Building on Successful Partnerships with Governments

Leader: William Pace

1) The workshop participants endorsed and urged support for a number of key campaigns reflecting "new diplomacy" partnerships with governments and international organizations, including the campaigns for the International Criminal Court (CICC), for the abolition of child soldiers (ICSUCS), for severe restrictions on the trade of small arms (IANSA), to promote the global actions and initiatives to prevent war (HAP).

2) Strategies for strengthening international democratic processes were also presented. These included expanding the rights and formally approving the best practices of NGOs in the UN General Assembly, other UN bodies and international organizations.

Many other strategies to promote just democratic global governance, including proactive actions to improve inter-governmental leadership, support for NGOs on government delegations, support for efforts to prevent unacceptable international agreements (MAI) were also raised.



From Troy Davis: We support the concept of world democracy and in order to achieve it, we need partnerships between governments, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and business. Nous soutenons le concept de la démocratie mondiale et pour y arriver, nous avons besoin de partenariats entre les gouvernements, la société civile, les organisations intergouvernementales et les entreprises.

WORKSHOP TWENTY SIX:

Improving the Learning Processes of Civil Society Organisations: Integrating the Academic Community's Perspectives and Evaluations.

Leader: Peter Willetts

Learning is power. Academics offer perspective from the past and across sectors; study organisations and procedures that may constrain outcomes; analyse the politics of ideas. NGOs offer their experience on what succeeds and what does not.

The academic/popular language gap and resources for co-operation must be overcome.

The priority is for two-way communications, via the following projects: 1) A state of the art review of the nature of citizenship and education for citizenship. 2) NGO to maintain archives and think tanks to tell success stories. 3) UN funding for training and sharing experience between NGOs. 4) Joint academic-NGO approaches to foundations for secondment of activists to academia. 5) Empowering NGOs to commission research.

ATELIER VINGT-SEPT:

Les organisations de la société civile et les médias: existe-t-il un "bon" message? Comment est-il transmis au public en général?

President d'atelier: Philippe Legault

Il n'existe pas de "bon" message

universel puisque les perceptions varient selon les individus et les sociétés. Le sensationnalisme prend trop de place au détriment de la raison. Or, pour rallier les gens aux efforts des organisations de la société civile, il est préférable de les inciter à la réflexion plutôt que de les culpabiliser.

Pour donner de la profondeur et de l'efficacité à leurs messages, les ONG doivent pouvoir compter sur un spécialiste de la communication. Il faut laisser le sud parler du sud, notamment en facilitant l'accès à certains médias, comme l'internet.

WORKSHOPS TWENTY-EIGHT AND TWENTY-NINE:

Intersectoral cooperation/
Partnership between CSOs and
global economic actors

Leaders: Roel R. Ravanera, Fawzi Rihane, Maurice Alarie

We noted that there are different types of coalitions, some working within, some working outside the system. We also noted the need to bring the process to different levels of implication from grassroots to village chiefs, to regional, national and global.

It transpired from the discussions that there is a need for better communication among NGOs at national and international levels. The greatest problems or challenges for future coalitions will be lack of funds, lack of human resources, time and political constraints, the issue of security in war torn countries was also raised. Noted also was that the NGOs fear being co-opted. A possible avenue for the future: the creation of a civil society fund.

WORKSHOPS THIRTY AND THIRTY-TWO:

Building synergy and confidence between civil society and business corporations.../Codes of conduct of multinational corporations

Leader: Laurie Regelbrugge

Fifteen delegates - seasoned skeptics to

idealistic optimists - debated the value, potential and risks of civil society engagement with business. We challenged civil society - ourselves - to move forward to: Build the reliable information and knowledge base of NGO experience with business. Promote civil society values in business education and business to incorporate social development and environmental protection and conservation. Develop principles of engagement that guide civil society and business relationships. Use networks to share information and build the capacity of civil society. Explore codes of conduct for business and NGOs that hold institutions accountable for their behaviour and declarations they have signed.

WORKSHOP THIRTY-ONE:

Innovative proposals to democratize WTO and trade negotiations: Lessons from Seattle!

Leader: Ann Pettifor

We reassert the supremacy of human values over money values. In this context we call for a fundamental review of the impact of the WTO - within the UN framework.

The WTO and Bretton Woods institutions must be brought under the authority and regulations of a transformed, people-centred UN.

The UN must have binding mechanisms and enforcement powers to subordinate trade rules, outcomes and TNC activity - to human values and principles enshrined in UN agreements. Trade rules must respect national laws that protect health, environment, development and human rights. Developing nations have the right to trade and develop to meet their peoples' needs. The precautionary principle as well as high standards of transparency, accountability and access must be adopted.

We commit to advancing this vision and to giving practical support to fair trade, as one countervailing force to that of TNCs.