

**Report on UN and UN related Meetings at Geneva**  
by Vita de Waal Main Representative for P.A.C.E. at UN Geneva  
Foundation for GAIA, UK

**2004**

**Wisdom at Work Association** - December 12, 2004

Wisdom at Work is an association of professionals working with or in the UN system and who are reinvigorating the United Nations from within. At meetings one can make the work known of the organisation/s one represents and make contributions in that area.

**WWSF** (Women's World Summit Foundation) - December 2004. [www.wfwp.org](http://www.wfwp.org) - I was invited to join the **Jumping the Fence** Task Force with environmental sustainability/development as my area of contribution and to monitor that these areas are covered by WFWP.

**MSGG** (Millennium Solidarity Geneva Group) December 2004. Invitation to become member on the Committee.

**2005**

On January 19th we received the following e-mail from PACE President Dr Michrowski:  
2005 should be the year - our first year as a special consultative status NGO at ECOSOC - where we scout to see which agencies (and groups therein) and which NGOs might be our allies for joint policy positions. This is also the year where we can see how far and with whom we can start implementing our humanitarian strategies (clean water, nuclear waste decontamination, clean energy provision) within the UN system and its network of co-operative NGOs and parties. I strongly recommend that this be a low-key, diplomatic year.

**FSPI (Swiss Forum for International Affairs)** January 17, 2005: "Why does China's Economy grow so fast?" Lecture by Prof Angang, China, government adviser on economic policies. Prof Angang was keen to establish links with PACE. I spoke with him and mentioned the new environmental sustainable projects PACE is involved in. He was very interested and asked if PACE could link-up. I briefed Dr Michrowski on this. Reply: 'China will have problems' No further action taken, no follow up.

**World Bank Institute** - January 24, 2005: Lecture given by Prof D. Kaufmann who is preparing a new Report on Corruption in Governace. He wanted NGO input and for points to be included. I asked about environmental corruption (as per PACE's humanitarian strategies of clean water, nuclear waste decontamination, clean energy provision) if these will be considered in his Report. He asked me to link-up with him. I briefed PACE. No Reply

**WWSF** (Women's World Summit Foundation) - February 15, 2005: Invitation by the **Jumping the Fence** Task Force to organize a workshop on environmental sustainability/development.

**CRC** (The Committee on the Rights of the Child) February 24, 2005: "Role of NGOs" Lecture given by Elaine Petitat - Coté. specifically on Health and Nutrition. I was given time to bring up the issue of EMF. She was keen for PACE to prepare a 2-page Report which she could then give to the CRC Committee and for them to decide if this point was to be included in their requests to Governments. The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the body of independent experts

that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its State parties. Almost 200 governments have signed up to this. CRC is part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) As we had discussed previously by e-mail, this could be one of the ways to bring to the attention to UN bodies. You asked me to contact real players, eg Gro H-B (who you now know has left) "to ask for an interview with her to check out whether our network of scientists could be helpful in providing independent information on this issue - at least for her executive office's use. Elaine P-C is asking for such a Report and for her to pass this on the CRC Committee of Experts.

**Wisdom at Work Association** - February 27, 2005: "Humanitarianism and the tsunami: what does it mean to serve in the international community?" 12 of us had a 2 hr mtg over brunch with Mr J.M from UNOCHA UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The whole aid scenario has changed. Countries now want to be seen doing something directly and so send their own troupes/corps in, with the name on their backs clearly visible as well as on the relieve equipment/packages. Furthermore, local NGOs and charities are either already there or can be there within 24hrs (e.g. local Red Cross) while it takes the UN Deployment Force 48hrs. Another aspect, as from Report by OECD: Of the money given by a country 48% comes back to that country. Furthermore OECD also points out that money used had already been earmarked as aid towards that country and will then be deducted. These studies are important when so many NGOs are involved with the MDGs. This person from UNOCHA has been all over the world and on the ground, in the thick of it all and thus has a view from those working in SOS emergency situations. Now he is part of the worldwide coordinating team and sees the value of the UN at that level. Coordination was tops and second to none. Strategically they were less effectively and politically not at all, as now all the governments are coming in. Many offer aid with strings attached but as these agreements happen in separate venues the UN is not involved, but is aware of this happening.

Implications for PACE: that while linking up with organizations at the UN level is worth-while, especially for the creation of policies by different groups and then for governments to sign-up (or not) to these; it is equally important to really be working with similar organization at home and with the government. From the UK I have seen that lobbying is actually a very easy process and that too few organizations like PACE are aware of this.

**Geneva Press Club - MSGG** (Millennium Solidarity Geneva Group) - March 1, 2005  
Participation at a Press conference related to creating a MDG Forum

**Geneva Press Club** - March 2, 2005: APPEL A LA REFORME DES SYSTEMES EDUCATIFS

**UN - World Bank** - March 2, 2005: "From Today's Strategy Space...Towards 2020...Aid, Trends and Scenarios Mr Enrique Rueda-Sabater (on WB's Strategic Planning Group)

**UN - CSVGC** - March 14, 2005: NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns - Revising Appeal to the UN to take...into account the human and spiritual dimensions throughout national and global development strategies,...to propose that the WHO adds the spiritual dimension to its definition of health as follows "Health is a state of complete physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity"

March 21, 2005: Met up with Mrs E Pradervand who is one of the speakers and convenors at the **Conference of Thinkers in Abu Dhabi**. Introduced her to the Clean Water and Nuclear Decontamination Projects. She is taking info to Abu Dhabi.

**UN Commission on Human Rights**: PACE through VDW participated in most Sessions of 2005

**UN - CONGO** - March 22, 2005: **NGO Strategy Session** related to input by NGOs in order to maximize their impact on the work of the Expanded Bureau for HR.

**UN - A Permanent Mission** - March 22, 2005: Open-ended consultations on the draft resolution "The Right to the Truth"

**UN - Permanent USA Mission** - March 22, 2005: Briefing for NGOs with Senator R. Boschwitz, Amb. E Moley, Amb. Cribbins etc

**UN - OHCHR** - March 22, 2005: Meeting of the CHR Expanded Bureau with NGOs. Present Chairman of HRC and the High Commissioner Mrs. Louise Arbour from Canada, she is a gem.

**WCC** - March 22, 2005: **NGO Forum for Health: Special Session on Public-Private Partnerships**. A 4hr working session.

**UN - Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network:** March 23, 2005

**Geneva Press Club - MSGG** (Millennium Solidarity Geneva Group) - March 23, 2005  
Briefing by P Robineau who went to ECOSOC High Segment Mtg - speech given by J Sachs related to MDGs and planning of Geneva activities, also related to GMPI.

**CADTM** - March 24, 2005 - Eric Toussaint on Committee of WSF and Expert on **The World Debt and Development**.

**CONGO** - March 31, 2005: **NGO Strategy Session** related to input by NGOs in order to maximize their impact on the work of the Expanded Bureau for HR.

**UN Democracy Caucus** - March 31, 2005: Its role in promoting and protecting Human Rights

**OHCHR** - March 31, 2005: **General briefing with the Independent expert on human rights and extreme poverty**.

**WCC** - March 31, 2005: Grace Lo from the Health and Care Department of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on **"Health Issues in Emergency Situations**. (The International Committee of Red Cross - ICRC) - is more focused on Conflict situations. The Federation has more responsibility for Disasters and Development. I later spoke with Grace Lo about PACE and she is keen to pass any relevant information on water/sanitation/purification on to the relevant person/relevant department at the IFRC.

**UN - CONGO** - April 1, 2005: **NGO Strategy Session**

**UN - CSW** - April 4, 2005: Vita de Waal from gives workshop during Commission on Human Rights (Rm 27)

**UN - NGO Committee on Spirituality Values and Global Concerns (CSVGC)** - April 4, Yearly Mtg

**UN - CONGO** - April 7, 2005: **NGO Strategy Session** related to input by NGOs in order to maximize NGO impact on the work of the Expanded Bureau for Human Rights and Reform of the

Commission of Human Rights.

**UN - Meeting** with Rapporteur on Freedom of Belief Mme Asma Jahangir with regards modalities including spiritual approaches in agriculture, eg Ayurvedic, anthroposophic (eg Wellede)

**UN - Assembly Hall** - April 7, 2005 -Secretary-General Dr Kofi Annan Address to Commission on Human Rights and proposal for a Council for Human Rights.

**UN - Permanent Mission of the Netherlands** - April 7, 2005 - - Informal Consultations on Religious Intolerance

**UN Human Rights Commission** - April 12, 2005: PACE was one of the signatories on the NGO Joint Statement on the Reform of the Human Rights Commission presented at the 61st Session of the Human Rights Council delivered by Mrs Renate Bloem, President of CONGO.

**UN - CSW:** Panel Discussion with World Bank, ILPF, FI, IFUW (International Federation University Women) and WGECD (Working Group Women's Employment and Economic Development)

**UN - Perm MissionS UK,Argentina, India, Nigeria, Russian Fed:** HR and Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises

**UN - WWSF:** 13 April, 2005: UN side event during 61<sup>st</sup> Session of CHR on 27 Demilitarised States in the World, a Standard for Development, Peace and Security

**UN - WFUNA:** 13-15 April, 2005, 3 day Closed Seminar on the International Criminal Court, present HH Judge Kirsch, President of the ICC and organized by WFUNA in conjunction with the UN OHCHR.

**UN OCHA and IFCR** – April 2005: Contact made and CEPA informational material sent.

Study of the **UN Basel Convention** as the Tsunami had brought to the surface toxic waste materials that were illegally sunk in sea.

**Jonathon Porritt** – 12 May 2005: Co-Founder and Programme Director of Forum for the Future, is an eminent writer, broadcaster and commentator on sustainable development. He was appointed by the Prime Minister as Chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission in July 2000 (this is the Government's principal source of independent advice across the whole sustainable development agenda), he has been a member of the Board of the South West Regional Development Agency since December 1999, and is Co-Director of The Prince of Wales's Business and Environment Programme which runs Senior Executives' Seminars in Cambridge, Salzburg, South Africa and the USA. In 2005 he became a Non-Executive Director of Wessex Water, and a Trustee of the Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy. He is also Vice-President of the Socialist Environment Resources Association (SERA). He was formerly Director of Friends of the Earth (1984-90); co-chair of the Green Party (1980-83) of which he is still a member; chairman of UNED-UK (1993-96); chairman of Sustainability South West, the South West Round Table for Sustainable Development (1999-2001); a Trustee of WWF UK (1991-2005). Mark Porringa's paper on nuclear waste transformation methods was sent to him.

**SDC – May 2005:** Invitation by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) or Direction du Développement et de la Coopération (DDC) which is part of the Swiss

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Forum Suisse de Politique Internationale – FSPI** - May 2005: attendance at their luncheon debate with... Le Forum suisse de politique internationale est une institution indépendante d'information et de réflexion sur les relations internationales (Think Tank), fondée en 1997, dont le siège est à Genève. C'est l'une des principales enceintes où Internationaux et Suisses se rencontrent régulièrement pour un travail de recherche et d'analyse sur les questions d'actualité.

**ILO - World Bank Geneva** - 3 June 2005: Attendance at Interactive seminar with **World Bank Chief Economist Francois Bourguignon; A Preview of the World Development Report 2006 - "Equity and Development"**

**Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)** - 8 June 2005: Attendance at the Discussion on **“Results of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference and Nuclear Policies”**. (The discussion will provide an opportunity to exchange views on the results of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), taking place at the UN Headquarters in New York on 2-27 May 2005. In this context, the discussion will encourage a dialogue that is focused on the nuclear strategies of countries and the practical ways towards the reduction of nuclear arsenals worldwide) with Vladimir Orlov, GCSP – Nikolai Sokov, Monterey Institute of International Studies (USA) – François Rivasseau (Ambassador, France) – Alexander Saveliev, Institute of World Economics and International Relations (Russia) – Hu Xiaodi (Ambassador, China) – Rebecca Johnson, Acronym Institute (UK) - Emmanuel Egger, Spiez Laboratory – Indra Mani Pandey (India) – Masood Khan (Ambassador, Pakistan) – Avner Cohen (Israel) - Marc Finaud, GCSP – Patricia Lewis, Director, UNIDIR – Hans Born, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Force - Marc Cadisch, Director, WMD Spiez Lab. Have approached a number of people and Ambassadors with regards the transmutation of nuclear waste methodologies and followed up with e-mails and documentation. Especially useful was the conversation with Canadian NPT Counsellor, Ann Pollack who was returning to Ottawa where PACE is HQed and Capt Xue Xiaodong from China.

**International Clean Energy Consortium (ICEC) and International Sustainable Energy Organisation for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ISEO)** – 10 June 2005: ICEC and ISEO establishing cooperative links with PACE.

**The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** – 23-24 June 2005 at IUCN Headquarters, Gland: Participation in a consultation process with more than 50 specialists from environmental and sustainable development agencies on **“Policy Approaches, Practical Interventions and Lessons on Poverty-Environment Links in IUCN and Swiss Institutions”** IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network - a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries. IUCN helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice. Contact made with Dr Jon-Andri Lys, the Executive Secretary of the Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries who asked for more information on PACE's humanitarian strategies and Mr Fulai Sheng, Economic Affairs Officer, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP France (Mr Mark Radkar in Paris ) asked for direct contact with PACE.

**UN Decade of Water 2005 -2015** – July 2005 - Letter by Dr Kofi Annan. Dissemination of info

related to this to all NGOs

**Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) - 6 July 2005:** Discussion with **Søren Jessen-Petersen**, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), on **“Meeting the Challenges of Peace-Building”**. VDW asked about how was dealt with. Reply: we admit that there is much lead that needs dealing with...

**UN – WFUMA – 19-21 July 2005:** Participation in certified Seminar on UN Commission on Human Rights in cooperation with the UN OHCHR. This in order to understand the progression from Commission of Human Rights to Council of Human Rights. Areas studied: Mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and Organs of the United Nations dealing with Human Rights - Resolutions adopted at the last session of the Commission, Relationship of the Mandates of the Commission with Treaty Bodies - Introduction to the United Nations System for the Protection of Human Rights, human rights activities in the field - The Rules of Procedures of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council - Special Procedures of the Commission - Importance of the Sub-Commission on the promotion and protection of Human Rights - Complaints procedure (1503): its strength and limitations - Human Rights Activities in the Field – Different Cases. Sudan, Nepal, Uganda, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia - The Commission on Human Rights. Historical background - Human Rights Council: From an idea to a diplomatic initiative to an UN-proposal - Towards a Human Rights Council

**UN Water Decade** – Debate organised by WCC with invitation to join working group.

**WTO related General Council of Peoples Conference:** 28 July 2005: 'NAMA Matters: A Debate on the Potential Impacts of the Negotiations on Industrial Products and Natural Resources' (facilitators: Nathalie Bernasconi, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) - Dr. Yilmaz Akyuz, Professor and former UNCTAD representative - Martin Khor, Third World Network (TWN) - Tim Rice, Action Aid - Aimee Gonzales, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) - Tanya van Meelis, Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)

**WTO related General Council of Peoples Conference - 29 July 2005:** 'GATS Power Play: Corporate Interests Trump Peoples' Rights' (facilitator: Tony Clark, Polaris Institute, Canada - Carlos Auilar, Encuentro Popular, Costa Rica - Genevieve Genciancos, Public Service International - Susan George, attac France - Benny Kuruvilla, Focus on the Global South, India - Josua T. Mata, Alliance of Progressive Labour, Philippines - Mustafa Talpur, Action Aid, Pakistan

**WTO related Conference – July 2005:** ‘The GMO Trade Dispute at the WTO’ Organised by FOE Europe

**WTO related Conference – July 2005:** Economic Partnership Agreements and the WTO: What’s at stake for the ACP? Organised by Both Ends

**UNESCO:** contact made with CB a member of PACE and now at the Division of Water Sciences at UNESCO, for who she is building up a network of Water Anthropology, a project which she presented at the 3rd World Water Forum (Kyoto)

**UN Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning** part of the UN Geneva NGO Committee on Human Rights: P.A.C.E. is one of the first members on this group who has since organized many side events during the HRC and works together with governments to establish the

inclusion of Human Rights Education and Learning.

2006

**Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)** - 19 January, 2006: Discussion with H.E. Ambassador Nikolay Spasskiy, Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council, Russian Federation, on “**National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation and Russia's Policy towards Europe**”.

**UN 2006 International Year of the Deserts and Desertification** - March – April 2006: **Field visit to Niger** to contact local NGOs for possible PACE CEPA humanitarian strategies.

**UN Human Rights Council:** PACE through VDW participated at all Sessions throughout 2006

**UN – AIDE – 8-9-10 May 2006:** Conference organized at UN Geneva by AIDE Federation on How to surmount the obstacles to achieve the Goals of the Declaration of the Millennium for the year 2015? VDW as PACE Representative has been asked to give a talk on MDGs. Contact made with Mr G Malsa, Vice-President du Conseil General de Martinique, maire de Sainte-Anne en Martinique who asked for help from PACE: He informed that they had environmental problems as the banana plantations have polluted the water. 14 wells have been polluted. He has now founded an environmental NGO so that the other wells can be protected. Because of the need for Martinique to receive income, there has been a lot of deforestation, making things even worse.

**UN OHCHR – 16 May 2006:** The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is organizing a round-table discussion on the theme: “ **Human Dignity, brotherhood and dialogue between cultures**” in collaboration with the NGO New Humanity. This event is organized in collaboration with the NGO New Humanity, on the occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, proclaimed on the 21 May (resolution 57/249 adopted on 20 February 2003 by the General Assembly of the United Nations).

**Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)** -16 May 2006: Discussion, with Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, former High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Sajjad Akram, former Force Commander of UNAMSIL and Corps Commander , and Ms Dekha Ibrahim Abdi, International Associate, Responding to Conflict (RTC), on “**The UN Peacebuilding Commission: Will It Make a Difference? How, to Whom – and When?**”.

**Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)** - 30 May 2006: **Public Discussion on “Iran’s Nuclear Puzzle”** with Ambassador Sayed Mohammad Kazem Sajjadpour, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva and former Director General of the Institute for Political and International Studies (1999-2004), Lt Gen (ret) Gennady Mikhailovich Evstafiev Senior Advisor, Center for Policy Studies in Russia, (P.I.R.) and former Head, Non-Proliferation Department, Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, and Prof Dr Harald Müller, Executive Director, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) and former Chairman, Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters of the UN Secretary General.

**Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)** - 12 June 2006: Programme for Strategic and International Security Studies (PSIS) workshop on the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

Universitaires pour la Paix israélo-palestinienne, 25 June 2006: conférence-débat: avec Dr. Eyad

el-Sarraj, psychiatre à Gaza “Israeli occupation, Health and Politics in Gaza”

**UN Human Rights Council** – 28 June 2006: Joint oral statement by NGOs on Human Rights Education and Learning (HREL)

**World Bank** - 22 September 2006: Launch of the World Development Report 2007 "Development and the Next Generation"

**International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and Fredrich-Ebert -Stiftung** - 5 October 2006: meeting with the ICJ Expert Legal Panel on Corporate Complicity in International Crimes.

**WTO** – 23 & 30 November 2006: Attendance at the WTO Introduction Day to familiarize oneself with the work of this agency.

## 2007

**WTO** – 1 February 2007: Attendance at debriefing meeting related to the Trade Negotiating Committee informal meeting at Heads of Delegation level to discuss the situation in the DDA negotiations held on 31 January 2007.

**UN Human Rights Council OHRHR**– 10 + 24 May 2007: Participation in the open-ended informal meeting of the Human Rights Council, convened by the President and organized by the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council

**UN OHCHR** - 11 May 2007: Participation at the “Human Rights and Access to Water”. The Human Rights Council requests “the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, taking into account the views of States and other stakeholders, to conduct, within existing resources, a detailed study on the scope and content of the relevant human rights obligations related to equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation under international human rights instruments, which includes relevant conclusions and recommendations thereon, to be submitted prior to the sixth session of the Council.” The consultation will be held on 11 May 2007 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in Room XI, from 10:00 to 13:00 and 15:00 to 18:00. Experts working in the field of human rights and access to water and sanitation, States, as well as representatives of relevant specialised agencies, civil society and the private sector can participate. The Office will provide additional information to participants prior to the consultation, including the agenda, a background document to guide the discussion and an information guide on accreditation and other administrative details.

**ARIS: Involvement from May to December 2007. I was asked to help as there was a risk ARIS’ demise. Helped to restructure and found a new director for them and they now have a new lease of life.**

**UN Human Rights Council** - May 2006: input in establishment for a Human Right to Peace by AEDIDH.

**UN Human Rights Council** – 4 June 2007: Attendance at a meeting of the HRC organized in honor of the President of the Republic of Chile, H.E. Mrs. Michelle Bachelet. Invitation from the President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Luis Alfonso De Alba.



**UN Human Rights Council – 5 June 2007:** Attendance at meeting convened by Ambassador Luis Alfonso De Alba, President of the Human Rights Council with NGOs to discuss the institution-building of the HRC, following the circulation of his (attached) Text on the HRC institution-building during the organizational meeting held June 4.

**ARIS – 26 June 2007:** General Assembly with new structure and vision accepted.

**Civil Society Development Forum 2007**, “A Platform for Development: Countdown to 2015” - 30th of June 2007: Attendance

**UN HRC OHCHR - 22 August 2007:** Meeting to discuss and exchange views on the relevant preparatory process with the Bureau designate of the Preparatory Committee. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which as per General Assembly resolution 61/149 is acting as the Secretariat for the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference to be held in 2009.

**UN Human Rights Council – 5 June 2007: Attendance at meeting. Enclosed note to NGOs:** To concerned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC:  
The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council presents its compliments to the concerned non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with ECOSOC, and has the honour to inform you that the President of the Council would like to convene a Bureau meeting with the concerned NGOs prior to the first part of the sixth session of the Human Rights Council, scheduled to be held from 10 to 28 September 2007. The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC the assurances of its highest consideration.

**UN OHCHR HRC - 24 September 2007:** Attendance at meeting to exchange views on the preparation of the stakeholders' report, as well as on possible guidance needed by stakeholders for submitting information under the UPR review.

**UN OHCHR HRC - 26 September 2007:** Attendance at HRC Bureau meeting with NGOs.

**UN OHCHR HRC – 1 October 2007:** attendance at open-ended informative consultations meeting by the President of the HR Council.

**WTO – 19 December 2007:** Attendance at NGO briefing on the meeting of the General Council.

## **2008**

Throughout 2008 we will be involved mainly and regularly with:

A) the OHCHR and Human Rights Council

B) the NGO Working Group (part of Geneva NGO Committee on Human Rights) related to Human Rights Education and Learning and which resulted in the following: **To: NGOs with ECOSOC status:**

**Please be informed that at its first session the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, under its discussion on agenda item 3 sub-item 1, decided to set up a Drafting Group to examine the request resulting from Human Rights Council resolution 6/10 of 28 September 2007 entitled "United Nations declaration on human rights education and training". The**

**Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee "to prepare a draft declaration on human rights education and training, to be presented to the Human Rights Council for consideration" (OP1). At its first meeting, yesterday afternoon, the Drafting Group decided to have a meeting with NGOs tomorrow, Friday, 8 August 2008 from 9 to 10 am in Room XXII, Palais des Nations, and interested NGOs are kindly invited to participate for an exchange of views on concrete elements to include in the draft declaration.**

C) the WTO: We shall be attending various NGO briefings on WTO meetings.

**Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) – 11 February 2008: Participation at the Workshop with the Steering Committee of the Processes of International Negotiation (PIN) Programme of the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)** Geneva is the city of negotiations. Every year, more than 17,000 international meetings are held in the sphere of International Geneva. More than 100,000 diplomats, delegates, and officials from five continents participate in these meetings. These figures do not even include all the negotiations that occur in Geneva's thriving business and financial sectors. In our modern day society of statistics, one could probably prove that Geneva is the city with the highest per capita number of negotiations in the world. However, negotiations are rarely examined and scrutinised as a professional skill. The Geneva Negotiation Day will provide an occasion to step back and reflect upon negotiations.

This GCSP workshop will offer a rare opportunity to listen to the world's unrivalled experts in international negotiation, globally known as the "PIN Group" (*Processes of International Negotiation Group*). The workshop, with a focus on **Multilateral Diplomacy** will include:

-Some Basic Elements of Negotiation Analysis -Cooperation and Negotiation: When do states cooperate and why? -Formal Models and International Negotiation -EU-NATO Relations as a negotiation experience -Demonisation and negotiation -Negotiating Sustainable Development. The case of environmental goods and services in the Doha Round -Negotiating Conflict: External Interventions in African Conflicts -Negotiations on Disaster Relief -Cooperation and Negotiation: When do states cooperate and why?

**UN Human Rights Council – 2 April 2008:** Attendance at meeting with President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Doru Costea, would like to meet with NGOs for an informal briefing. The meeting will take place TODAY, at 17:30 pm in the Council Chamber at Palais des Nations (on the first floor, above Door 6). The President will provide an up-date on the modalities and programme of work for the session and will be ready to answer queries you may have.

**International Conference Centre Geneva (ICCG) - 17 April 2008:** Debate on "Human Rights and Environment" Lecture given by VDW at event organized by Earth Focus (part of the Bellevue Foundation) Other speakers: Dr.Kirk Boyd, law professor at the University of California Berkeley, and Bruna Molina, former staff member of the OHCHR. There was much interest by international students but unfortunately PACE never followed up on my request for further information.

**UN HRC OHCHR - 19 May, 2008:** Attendance at Organizational Meeting in relation to the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC convened by President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Doru Costea.

**UN HRC OHCHR - 28 May, 2008:** Attendance at meeting with The President of the Human Rights Council, H.E. Ambassador Doru Costea, who would like to meet with NGOs in preparation of the up-coming 8th Session of the Human Rights Council (2 - 18 June 2008).

**UN OHCHR – 30 May 2008:** Attendance at meeting with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference. The purpose of the meeting is the

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discuss the participation of NGOs in the on-going preparatory process.

**UN HRC OHCHR:** June 11, 16, 17, 18: Attendance at meetings with the Presidency and Bureau of the HRC and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights an informal farewell reception and cocktail with the High Commissioner, organized by various NGOs.

**UN HRC OHCHR** – 15 August 2008: attendance at meeting during which the President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi, is currently undertaking consultations with relevant stakeholders following receipt of the Report of the Consultative Group relating to the Special Procedure mandate-holders to be appointed at the 9th session of the Human Rights Council.

*Prepared 23 August 2008 by Vita de Waal*

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