
World Council of Churches United Nations Advocacy Week

Annex to 2008 Report

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UNAW Planning Team

Conveners: United Nations Liaison Office of the World Council of Churches

Rev. Christopher Ferguson
Ms. Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee
Ms. Catherine Bordeau

Anglican Observer Office at the United Nations

Ms. Hellen Grace Akwii Wangusa
Ms. Martha Gardner

Caritas Internationalis

Mr. Joseph Donnelly

Church World Service

Ms. Rajyashri Waghray
Rev. Lynne West

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran World Federation

Mr. Dennis Frado

Presbyterian Church United Nations Liaison Office

Mr. Joel Hanisek
Ms. Jessica Hawkinson

United Methodist - Women's Division

Ms. Esmeralda Brown

United Methodist General Board of Church and Society

Mr. Levi Bautista
Rev. Kathleen Stone

World Council of Churches

Ms. Segma Asfaw
Ms. Patricia Bruschweiler
Ms. Diana Chabloz
Dr. Matthews George
Rev. Elenora Giddings Ivory
Dr. Guillermo Kerber
Ms. Sydia Nduna
Ms. Christina Papazoglou
Rev. Dr. Shanta Premawardhana

World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

Ms. Mia Adjali

2008 Additions to UNAW

Reception at the United Nations

Each year during UNAW, the World Council of Churches hosts a reception for the participants and United Nations community. In 2007, the reception was held in the Church Center for the United Nations. Following the 2007 reception, there was some feedback from participants saying that the Church Center did not provide a more social setting to mingle with representatives of governments. In order to make this possible, the UNAW planning team placed significant time, effort and resources into the 2008 reception.

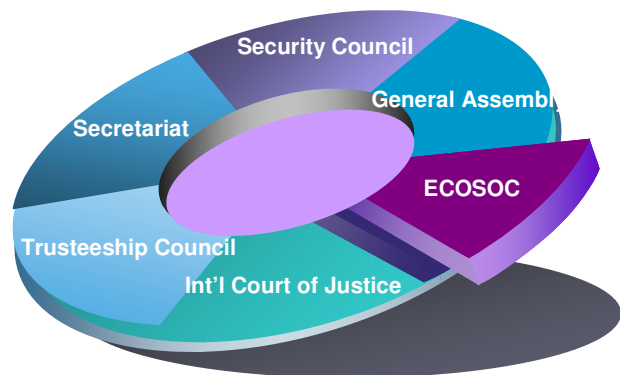
The results were very positive. For UNAW 2008, the WCC hosted the reception at the United Nations Delegates Dining Room with incredible views of New York City. The reception was highly attended, not only by UNAW participants, but also by the local ecumenical community and over 30 ambassadors, additional representatives of Permanent Missions and also from U.N. agencies. The Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson spoke to welcome the UNAW delegates and government representatives followed by a presentation by H.E. Ambassador Mrs. Maria Rubiales de Chamorro of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations.



Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson speaking at the United Nations Photo: M. Short

UN 101 – Introductory Session

Participants from 2007 requested an addition to the program which would introduce the United Nations system in a more general way. In response, the UNAW planning team added a special session on Sunday afternoon entitled “U.N. 101” to fulfill that goal as well as to generate an open discussion space for *how* advocacy is done by churches at the United Nations. Catherine Bordeau (World Council of Churches) highlighted a brief history of the U.N. and its membership, followed by basic points about its charter and mission. She explained the four principle organs of the United Nations, namely: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council. The session closed with an introduction to some of the voting blocks governments work within when making decisions at the United Nations.



Six Principle Organs of the United Nations

Interpretation

In an effort to make the meeting more accessible to non-English speaking partners, the UNAW planning team placed emphasis on providing interpretation of all UNAW sessions and discussions. Because of this, all sessions were provided with simultaneous Spanish and French interpretation. The website was also translated into Spanish. The provision of interpretation was an essential addition to UNAW.

The availability of interpretation more than doubled participation of Latin American partners compared with the previous year. In another example, the UNAW planning team welcomed Ms. Maria Cleofé Sumire de Conde, the first indigenous Congresswoman from Peru, to speak in Spanish about human rights from an indigenous perspective. In addition, the regional planning meeting and evaluation were led in Spanish by Mr. Humberto Martin Shikiya.

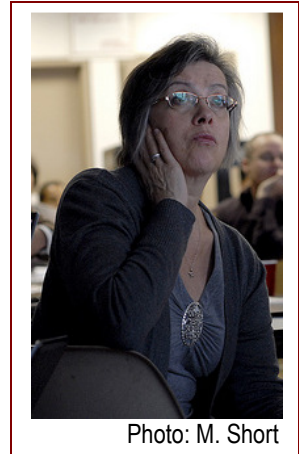


Photo: M. Short

Website

In order to make information and documents available prior to the meeting, the UNAW planning team developed a website for UNAW 2008. It featured the goals and objectives for the week, history, thematic resources, accommodation recommendations, logistical information, and a list of frequently asked questions. All participants were requested to use the website in order to register for the event; this was the first time ever that the WCC has used an online registration process for any event. Further, the website was translated into Spanish in order to make it more accessible.

Sunday, 16 November

3:00 Registration

4:00 United Nations 101 Introductory Session

Speakers:

- **Ms. Catherine Bordeau**, World Council of Churches.
- **Rev. Christopher Ferguson**, World Council of Churches.

UN Ecumenical Advocacy Panel:

- **Ms. Mia Adjali**, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.
- **Ms. Martha Gardner**, Anglican Observer Office at the United Nations.
- **Mr. Joel Hanisek**, Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) United Nations Office.

6:00 Opening Worship, CCUN Chapel

Monday, 17 November

8:00 Registration

8:15 Morning Worship, CCUN Chapel

9:00 Session I: Welcome and Keynote Address

Our Common Strategic Global Ecumenical Advocacy

Speaker:

- **Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon** – General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

Respondent:

- **Ms. Hellen Akwii-Wangusa** – Anglican Observer and Personal Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury at the United Nations.

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Session II: Ecumenical Advocacy Agenda

Speakers:

- **Rev. Elenora Giddings Ivory** – Director for the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches in Geneva and the Public Witness Programme.
- **Rev. Christopher Ferguson** – Representative to the United Nations of the World Council of Churches.

12:30 Lunch Provided

United Nations Framework: 60 Years of Human Rights

2:00 Session III: United Nations Framework: 60 Years of Human Rights

Speakers:

- **Dr. David Little** – T.J. Dermot Dunphy Professor of the Practice in Religion, Ethnicity, and International Conflict; Director of Initiatives in Religion and Public Life, and Faculty Associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard Divinity School.
- **Ms. Maria Cleofé Sumire de Conde** – Congresswoman representing the Cusco Region, National Congress of Peru.

3:30 Afternoon Tea

4:00 Session IV: Introductions and Regional Caucus Sharing

- **Introduction to Regional Caucuses**
- **Regional Group Breakout sessions:** Groups convene to identify key regional challenges and advocacy issues being pursued. (20 minutes)
(reconvene)
- **Regional Introductions and Sharing**

Tuesday, 18 November 2008

8:15 Morning Worship, CCUN Chapel

Climate Change

9:00 Session I: *Climate Change, the UN and Human Rights*

Moderator:

- **Rev. Henrik Grape** – Ordained minister in the Lutheran Church of Sweden, Officer on Sustainable Development at the Church of Sweden's central office.

Speakers:

- **Climate Change at the UN – Rev. Jorge Domingues** – Interim Deputy General Secretary for Evangelization and Church Growth for the United Methodist Board Global Ministries.

- **Climate Change and Human Rights – Mr. Stephen Humphreys**, Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy.
- **The Churches’ Concerns on Climate Change – Lic. Elias Abramides**, Representative from the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Session II: Churches and Ecumenical Initiatives on Climate Change

Moderator:

- **Ms. Rajyashri Waghray** – Director, Church World Service Program on Education and Advocacy for International Justice and Human Rights.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Fe’iloakitau Kaho Tevi** – General Secretary for the Pacific Conference of Churches.
- **Rev. Baranite Kirata** – Director of the Kiribati Protestant Church Justice and Development Department.

12:00 Special Lunch Session (sign up necessary)

Sri Lanka: Towards Peace and Reconciliation

2:00 Session III: An Overview of the Ongoing Conflict Situation in Sri Lanka and its Impacts

- **Introductory Remarks**
- **A Historic Overview**
- **Militarization and Forced Displacement**
- **Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information**
- **Child Soldiers and Conscription of Children**
- **Deepening Humanitarian Crisis**
- **Discussion/Questions**

3:30 Afternoon Tea

4:00 Session IV: The Way Forward – A Negotiated Political Solution

- **A Critique of the present Government’s attempts at a political solution and the APRC proposals**
- **The ‘silence’ of the International Community and UN Agencies**
- **The Means of a Political Solution and Ceasefire Agreement and the Modalities for Peace Talks**
- **Towards and Ecumenical Strategy for Advocacy on Sri Lanka Peace Process**
- **Discussion/questions**

Wednesday, 19 November 2008

8:15 Morning Worship, CCUN Chapel

Migration

9:00 Session I: Welcoming the Stranger

Moderator:

- **Mr. Dennis W. Frado**, Director of the Lutheran Office for World Community.

Speakers:

- ***The Theology of Migration*** – **Dr. Niki Papageorgiou**, Assistant Professor in Sociology of Religion, School of Theology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
- ***Ecumenical Alliance Humanitarian Response to Emergencies: Global Perspective*** – **Mr. John Nduna**, Director, ACT International Coordinating Office, Geneva.
- ***The Impact of Migration on Living Together in Diversity*** – **Dr. Maake Masango**, Professor in Practical Theology at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Church's Response the South African Experience.

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Session II: Convention on Migrant Rights

Moderator:

- **Mr. William Gois**, Regional Coordinator of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA).

Speakers:

- ***The Convention of Migrant Rights and other related UN Declarations and Conventions*** – **Dr. Theodor Rathgeber**, Professor from the University of Kassel / Department on Social Science.
- ***Migrants' Rights*** – **Ms. Anke Strauss**, Liaison Officer/ International Organization for Migration
- ***Human Rights Issues of Migrant Workers in the Gulf and the Middle East Region as a Whole: Migrant Workers in Lebanon*** – **Ms. Seta Hedashian**, Director, Life and Service Unit, Middle East Council of Churches, Beirut, Lebanon.
- ***Migrant Workers in the USA*** – **Rev. Dr. Robin Hoover**, pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tucson, Arizona.

12:30 Lunch Provided

2:00 Session III: Migration and Climate Change

Moderator:

- **Rev. Keith Briant** – Pastor and Founder of Asylum Seeker Assistance Project, Australia.

Speakers:

- ***The Impact of Migration and Climate Change on Young People*** – **Rev. Asora Amosa**, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Presbyterian Church, Auckland New Zealand.
- ***The impact of Migration and Climate Change on Communities: The Choice between Resettlement or Remaining*** – **Rev. Baranite Kirata**, Secretary of the Kiribati Protestant Church Justice and Development Department.

3:30 Afternoon Tea

4:00 Session at the United Nations -- *Economic and Social Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters.*

- **“Progress in implementing One United Nations reform: Political challenges, parliamentary perspectives”** (organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union)

*****Please receive UN pass from UNAW staff and bring government issued ID**

6:00 WCC United Nations Reception – *United Nations Delegates Dining Room, United Nations Headquarters (4th floor)*

- **Dress: Formal**

Thursday, 20 November 2008

8:15 Morning Worship, *CCUN Chapel*

9:00 Session I: Migration Advocacy

- **Advocacy groups convene**
- **Advocacy preparation**

11:00 Mission Visits – *Missions*

Advocacy preparations to the missions will use the following theme which came out of the discussions of the Global Ecumenical Network on Migration meeting in April 2008, Beirut, Lebanon:

Migrants¹ are holistic beings created in the image of God.

Persons that migrate are not merely commodities, victims or ‘illegals’, but

¹ Migrants include migrant workers, survival migrants, stateless migrants, stranded migrants, refugees, people seeking asylum, trafficked persons, complementary protection cases, internal migrants?, IDPs?

human beings with dignity, rights, dreams, strengths and contributions to make.

In affirming principle, we seek:

- 1) Ratification of core treaties
- 2) Accountability under law
- 3) Vocal and visible migrants²
- 4) Migration policies with human rights standards
- 5) Respect for human rights defenders

12:30 Lunch Available (Meals taken between Mission visits)

2:00 Mission Visits – Continuation

4:00 Mission Reporting

5:00 Our Work at Home: A Regional Caucus Approach

- **Regional Groups Convene**
 - **How do human rights, migration, climate change and Sri Lanka relate with the respective region?**
 - **What are proposals for follow up action: as a caucus, from the respective churches and organizations?**

Friday, 21 November 2008

9:00 Regional Reporting and Looking Ahead

Moderator:

- **Mr. Humberto Martin Shikiya**, Executive Director, Ecumenical Regional Centre for Advisory and Service

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 UNAW Evaluation

12:00 Closing High Level Keynote Address

- **Dr. Robert C. Orr** — United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning

1:00 Closing Worship, CCUN Chapel

² Accompaniment means raising the voices of migrants, speaking truth to power means ensuring migrants voices penetrate exclusive inter-state dialogues and the media to reach the public.

Lic. Elias Crisostomo Abramides

Lic. Elias Crisostomo Abramides was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and he represents the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He obtained his Degree as Licentiate in Chemical Sciences (Master in Science) from the University of Buenos Aires with expertise in Environmental Studies. Since 1963, he has been a member of the Argentine Chemical Association. He worked in Buenos Aires in several organizations, and as an Environmental Consultant. In addition, he is Ecumenical Officer of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Buenos Aires and South America, Secretary of the Argentine Commission of Christian Churches in Argentina, and Founding Member of the World Council of Churches Working Group on Climate Change (1992). Since 1995, Abramides has also been member or head of the WCC Delegations to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He is a frequent participant in UNEP meetings and other international symposia and seminars as lecturer. Such engagements include: International Seminar on Environment, Religion and Culture (Tehran, I. R. of Iran, 2001); Symposium IV: The Adriatic Sea (Ecumenical Patriarchate, 2002); Study Seminar on Climate Change and Development (Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace, Rome, 2007); Creation and Human Responsibility (Pontifical University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil), among others.

Ms. Hellen Grace Akwii-Wangusa

Since January, 2007, Ms. Hellen Grace Akwii-Wangusa has served as the Anglican Observer and Personal Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury at the United Nations. Born in Uganda to an Anglican Priest and a Mothers' Union Worker, Hellen received a Bachelors Degree in Literature and a concurrent Diploma in Education from Makerere University, Uganda. In 1984 she won a Fulbright Scholarship to study for a Masters Degree in Oklahoma, USA. Hellen was the Provincial Women's Worker for the Church of Uganda, coordinated the African Women's Economic Policy Network based in Uganda, then UNDP as the Africa Coordinator for the Millennium Development Goals. She is the Vice President of the All Africa Conference of Churches and the chairperson of the International South Group Network. She sits on a number of regional and international boards. Hellen is the mother of four children, ages 19 to 25.

Rev. Asora Amosa

Rev. Asora Amosa is a 56 year old Samoan-born New Zealander. Asora is married with 5 grown sons and, now lives in Auckland Aotearoa New Zealand together with his wife, Henga Amosa (nee Fahitua), a Tuvaluan Chinese Samoan-born New Zealander. Trained and ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament by the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand in 1990, Asora Amosa has served in three congregations to date and is currently in charge of the Pacific Island Congregation of the Avondale Union Parish which is made up of 60 or more families. Educated in Samoa and New Zealand, and graduated with a Diploma in Ministry from Knox Theological College, a Bachelor of Theology (1988) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Theology (1989) from the University of Otago, in Dunedin New Zealand, Rev. Amosa also received a Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Theology from Oxford University, England in 2001. He has served on various church, school and community boards is current Chairperson of the Samoa Auckland City Community Fono, Clerk of the Pacific Islands Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, and Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) representative to the WCC Global Ecumenical Network on Migration (GEM).

Rev. Keith Briant

Rev. Keith Briant, an Australian, has been married for 12 years to his beautiful and supportive wife, Sharon, and has two wonderful children, Joshua (6yrs) and Hannah (3yrs). In 2000 he started and directed the Asylum Seeker Assistance Project (till 2006) in response to the urgent and high levels of needs amongst the migrant and refugee communities arriving in Melbourne. The response includes accommodation, healthcare, material aid, community education, advocacy, and other support services assisting in cultural adjustments and pastoral care. People are always at the centre of his heart and activity; according to Keith, his faith both compels and resources his work for justice, peace and belonging to community. He currently is pastor to a local congregation part time and continues to be deeply involved and committed to ecumenical and interfaith justice and peace initiatives.

Mr. Aisake Casimira

Mr. Aisake Casimira is currently an Ecumenical Animator with the Pacific Conference of Churches. In this capacity, he is responsible for the programmes on Ecumenism, Good Governance and Climate Change under the Environment programme. Mr. Casimira previously worked as the Director of a local Fiji organisation called the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy. His background is in sociology and theology, particularly in ethics. He is married and has two children.

Rev. Jorge Domingues

A native of Brazil, Rev. Jorge Domingues is the Interim Deputy General Secretary for Evangelization and Church Growth for the United Methodist Board Global Ministries. Prior to his current assignment, Rev. Domingues has served as Interim Deputy General Secretary for Mission Contexts and Relationships, and Mission Education, Assistant General Secretary for global networks and ecumenical relations and as Executive Secretary for youth and young adults at the mission agency. He is active in the World Student Christian Federation, where he serves as a Trustee. He was a member of the policy-making Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, and a youth adviser to the ecumenical organization. Rev. Domingues is a clergy member of the Methodist Church in Brazil. He taught sociology at Bennett Methodist College in Brazil in the early 1990s and was associated with the Institute for Studies on Religion during that same time period. He also serves on Church World Service's Mission Relationship and Witness Committee.

Rev. Christopher Ferguson

Rev. Chris Ferguson is an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada. He is currently serving as the Representative of the World Council of Churches to the United Nations in New York, on a secondment from the United Church of Canada. From 2004 to 2006, he served as the WCC Representative in Jerusalem and as the Associate Executive Secretary of the Jerusalem Ecumenical Center. His theological studies were at the Vancouver School of Theology and the Faculty of Theology at the University of Montreal. His whole ministry has been devoted to human rights, peace, justice and interfaith cooperation. In the context of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Peace for Life movement, he has been contributing to the ongoing ecumenical theological debate about global economic injustice and Empire.

Mr. Dennis W. Frado

Mr. Dennis W. Frado is the Director of the Lutheran Office for World Community, an office of the Church in Society program unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and is responsible for the public policy advocacy of the church to international organizations on issues relating to world community such as human rights, world order and economic justice. He also serves as Main Representative of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) at United Nations Headquarters. He has been a member of the NGO Working Group on the Security Council (at the UN) since its founding in 1997 and of its Steering Group between 2000 and 2002. He has been a member of several Ecumenical Teams at the United Nations coordinated by the World Council of Churches. These include those on Sustainable Development, Social Development and Financing for Development. A graduate of American University in Washington, DC, Mr. Frado is married to Linda Wagschal Frado.

Rev. Elenora Giddings Ivory

Rev. Elenora Giddings Ivory currently serves as the Director for the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches in Geneva and the Public Witness Programme. She came to this position in 2007 from serving as the Director of the Washington Office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), where she was from 1989. Reverend Ivory's responsibilities include, among others, human and civil rights; religious liberties; women and family issues. She has served as Vice President of the National Council of Churches of Christ and Chair of the Council's National Ministry's Unit. Reverend Ivory was member of the Council's Committee on Religious Liberty. As an undergraduate at Douglas College of Rutgers University (NJ) she majored in political science and American history. She is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School.

Mr. William Gois

Mr. Ashley William Gois is currently the Regional Coordinator of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA). MFA is a regional network of migrants' organizations, NGOs, advocates, grassroots organizations and trade unions working to promote the rights and well being of migrant workers and members of their families. Mr. Gois acts as the representative and spokesperson of MFA and represents the network to various regional and international platforms of advocacy such as the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), International Labor Conference (ILC), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), The Hague Process, and World Social Forum on Migration among others. Mr. Gois was a member of the Task Force for the Interactive Informal Hearings as established by the UN General Assembly for the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development held in September 2006 in New York. In 2007, he was a member of the Steering Committee who worked closely with the King Baudoin Foundation in the preparations for the Civil Society Forum, the civil society component of the Global Forum on Migration and Development which took place in July 2007 in Brussels, Belgium. In 2008, Mr. Gois was a member of the International Advisory Committee who was in charge of the Civil Society Days of the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development in October 2008 in Manila, Philippines.

Rev. Henrik Grape

Henrik Grape is an ordained minister in the Lutheran Church of Sweden. He is also an Officer on Sustainable Development at the Church of Sweden's central office. Rev. Grape has been a member of the Enabling Team of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) since 2005. He is also engaged with the preparatory group for the Uppsala Interfaith Climate Summit, and was a member of the WCC ecumenical team at the two latest COP/MOPs held in Nairobi and Bali.

Ms. Seta Margossian-Hadashian

Ms. Seta Margossian-Hadashian is currently working at the Middle East Council of Churches as the Director of the Unit on Diakonia and Social Justice, alias Life and Service. She has been Chairperson of the Commemoration Committee of the Armenian Genocide in Lebanon since 2005 to the present. She has also been a Member of the All Armenia Fund Committee in Lebanon since 1992. She graduated from the Lebanese American University in Sociology in 1971, and studied Armenian studies at Yervant Hussissian Institute from 1968-1970.

Rev. Dr. Robin Hoover

Rev. Dr. Robin Hoover is the pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tucson, Arizona. He is also the founder and president emeritus of Humane Borders, Inc., an Arizona nonprofit social welfare corporation dedicated to migrant safety. Rev. Dr. Hoover has worked in immigration and migration related areas since 1986. His program work has focused both on humanitarian assistance and advocacy. Humane Borders operates approximately 95 water stations in Arizona for migrants who are risking their lives crossing the US-Mexico border. President Felipe Calderon of Mexico bestowed recognition from Mexico's National Human Rights Award in a special ceremony in 2006. Humane Borders' advocacy and assistance for migrants has been reported in every major media market in the world. He is also an academic, lecturing frequently at US and Mexican universities. The working title of his forthcoming book is *Humane Borders: the moral argument for reform*.

Mr. Stephen Humphreys

Mr. Stephen Humphreys is Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy in Geneva, where he leads research into climate change and human rights (a first report is available on the Council's website, www.ichrp.org). He has edited a volume entitled "Human Rights and Climate Change" to be published by Cambridge University Press in 2009. Prior to joining the International Council, Stephen was Senior Publications Officer, at the Open Society Justice Initiative, an operational human rights program of the Open Society Institute (OSI) in New York. He led research on minority rights for OSI's EUMAP program in Budapest, Hungary, from 2000-2002, and before that, between 1997 and 1999, he researched and published on climate change and development with ENDA Tiers Monde's Programme Energie, in Dakar, Senegal. He has published widely on international law and human rights.

Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon

Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) clergyman and a long-time educator and ecumenical leader, is the ninth General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. He was General Secretary of the Consultation on Church Union, which became Churches Uniting in Christ, from 1999 to 2002. He was executive secretary of the WCC's Commission on Faith and Order from 1980 to 1983 and had a major role in drafting the World Council of Churches' major planning document, "Toward a Common Understanding and Vision of the WCC." He has been the Allen and Dottie Miller Professor of Mission, Peace and Ecumenical Studies at Eden Theological Seminary since 2000. Before becoming NCC General Secretary on January 1, 2008, Kinnamon was a member of the Council's Governing Board and chair of the Council's Justice and Advocacy Commission. He has overseen the commission's development of resolutions and statements on a wide range of justice and peace issues and was the primary drafter of the NCC's Strategic Plan drafting committee over the past three years. Kinnamon earned a Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 1980, in the field of religion and literature. He studied at Tel Aviv University from 1969 to 1970. He is married to the Rev. Katherine Kinnamon, and the couple has two daughters, Anna and Leah.

Rev. Baranite 'Bate' Kirata

Reverend Baranite 'Bate' Kirata completed his theological studies at the Pacific Theological College in Fiji, as well as at both Yale and Boston University in the United States. He is currently Director of the Kiribati Protestant Church Justice and Development Department. He is a member of the Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC) where he serves as both office-bearer and Secretary to the Church and Society Programme. He is assisted in his work by his lovely wife Eberon with whom he has had two sons. Sadly, the elder son passed away in 2005 at the tragically young age of 25. A sad loss to the family, they nonetheless feel blessed at the recent arrival of their beautiful grand daughter through their younger son. Bate Kirata enjoys making friends and meeting people, as well as fishing and cooking. He finds cooking relaxing and is most appreciated at home for his expertise. When time and the occasion provide, he appreciates a quiet time of reflection in the presence of the Other.

Dr. David Little

Dr. David Little is the T.J. Dermot Dunphy Professor of the Practice in Religion, Ethnicity, and International Conflict; Director of Initiatives in Religion and Public Life, and Faculty Associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard Divinity School. Dr. David Little has been on the faculty at Harvard since 1999. Before that, he was senior scholar in religion, ethics, and human rights at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. From 1996 to 1998, he was a member of the U.S. State Department Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad. He taught previously at Yale Divinity School, Virginia, Brown, and several other colleges and universities. He has written in the areas of moral philosophy, moral theology, history of ethics, and the sociology of religion, with a special interest in comparative ethics, human rights, religious liberty, and ethics and international affairs. He is working on a study tentatively entitled "Rights and Emergencies: Protecting Human Rights in the Midst of Conflict."

Dr. Maake Masango

Dr. Maake Masango is currently a Professor at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Since the 1970s, he has worked with a variety of Presbyterian Churches in South Africa. He received his Diploma in theology from Fedsem Fort Hare, and Masters degrees in Theology at Columbia University, USA, and Christian Education at the Presbyterian School, USA. He received a Ph.D in Counseling, Theology and Psychology from Columbia University. Masango is a past Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in South Africa, and was a member of the World Alliance of Reform Churches until 2000. He was an Executive and central Committee member of the World Council of Churches until 2006. Masango has been Urban Rural Missions (URM) President for Africa since 2001, and Vice President of the Society for Practical Theology since 2004. In addition, he has been a member of the Societas Homiletica since 2004. He is currently an Executive member of the all Africa Conference of Churches.

Mr. John Nduna

Mr. John Nduna is Director of Geneva based ACT International, Action by Churches Together, a Global alliance of churches and related agencies of the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World federation working in humanitarian response to emergencies and disasters worldwide. He is also the current Vice Chair of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR), a network that brings together 9 of some of the largest humanitarian Non-Governmental Organizations which include, Oxfam, CARE, ICRC, International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Save the Children, CARITAS and the World Vision International. He previously headed the ecumenical organization, Church Ecumenical Action in Sudan (CEAS), which operates out of Nairobi. He graduated from the University of Zambia with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in economics. A desire to “make a difference” saw him take up several appointments within the field of humanitarian assistance and development, with a focus on refugees in Zambia, Mozambique and Tanzania.

Dr. Robert C. Orr

Dr. Robert C. Orr was appointed Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General in August 2004. His responsibilities include advising the Secretary-General on a full range of strategic issues, running the Secretary-General's Policy Committee, and leading the Secretariat's efforts to complete the UN reform agenda agreed to by world leaders at the 2005 World Summit. Dr. Orr serves as the principal policy advisor to the Secretary-General on climate change and chairs the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which coordinates 24 UN entities involved in counter-terrorism activities. Dr. Orr joined the United Nations from Harvard University where he served as the Executive Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Kennedy School of Government. Prior to this, he served as Director of the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. From 1996 to 2001, Dr. Orr served in senior posts in the Government of the United States, including Deputy to the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and Director of the USUN Washington office, where he was instrumental in securing an agreement to have the United States pay its arrears to the United Nations. He also served as Director of Global and Multilateral Affairs at the National Security Council, where he was responsible for peacekeeping and humanitarian affairs. Prior to this government service, Dr. Orr worked for the International Peace Academy in New York, and with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Nairobi, Kenya.

Dr. Niki Papageorgiou

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Ms. Anke Strauss

Ms. Anke Strauss is currently Liaison Officer for the Office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Permanent Observer to the United Nations. Ms. Strauss has been working as Liaison Officer since June 2005. She joined IOM in 2001 as Senior Legal Officer/Team Leader for Property Loss within the German Forced Labour Compensation Programme at IOM in Geneva. Before joining IOM, Ms. Strauss was the Director of the Legal Department at the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Person and Refugees, established by the Dayton Peace Agreement, in Sarajevo (1999-2001) and Legal Officer at the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany in Berlin (1996-1998). Ms. Strauss is a German national and holds a law degree from the University of Passau.

Ms. Maria Cleofé Sumire de Conde

Ms. Maria Sumire, born in an indigenous community in Canchis Province, Peru, is currently a Congresswoman representing the Cusco Region. Dr. Sumire is an experienced lawyer from Cusco, who has provided legal advice for the Farmer Federation of Cuzco in its struggle for land and women's organizations. She is a member of the Evangelical Methodist Church, a leader of the Association of Andean Women (AMA), and was one of the 1,000 women candidates for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize. She was elected to the Peruvian Congress in 2006, and for over 30 years of internal politics and violence, Maria Sumire has worked with the Quechua communities of Cuzco, advocating for human rights. She has fought for and affirmed the Quechua identity inside the church. For 30 years, alongside her husband, she helped educate the pastors in the city on the indigenous practice of loving and expressing solidarity with the neighbor as fulfilling the mandates of the Bible -- to practice faith and love.

Dr. Fe'iloakitau (Fei) Kaho Tevi

Dr. Fei Tevi, of Tongan and Fijian descent, is currently General Secretary for the Pacific Conference of Churches. Mr. Tevi has been General Secretary since April 2008. Before joining the PCC, Fei as he is commonly known, was the Executive Secretary of the World Council of Churches Office in the Pacific (WCCOP). Tevi has graduate degrees and qualifications in political science, international relations, development and diplomacy. He has been vocal on issues such as self-determination in French Polynesia, climate change, HIV/AIDS and the World Trade Organization. He is committed to ensuring that the churches have a voice in regional issues, including those being addressed by the Pacific Islands Forum. He is married with four children which include two boys and twin girls.

Ms. Rajyashri Waghray

Ms. Rajyashri Waghray is Church World Service's Director for the Program on Education and Advocacy for International Justice and Human Rights. She serves as their Representative to the United Nations, where she addresses issues that advance CWS's mission of peace with justice. Ms. Waghray graduated from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and has a M.Phil. Her thesis was, "Paradigms of Development: Third World Development and Under-Development." She has extensive experience in both the areas of sustainable development and public policy advocacy. Most recently she has been: Project Director at the Harvard University's International Council of Women World Leaders; Director, Sustainable Development, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO); Member, Technical Advisors Group, IMF; and Consultant to NGOs engaged in environment protection and conservation in India and abroad. Ms. Waghray also has a Masters in Political Economy and Environment Management from India.

Participants

Introduction

The UNAW 2008 planning team worked to increase participation from partners throughout the world and set specific goals to ensure greater participation of women, indigenous peoples and youth. In all categories, the planning team was successful. The WCC increased participation of partners from the global south. Special thanks to CWS for facilitating the participation of three representatives of the PCC. WCC CCIA Commissioners joined UNAW, and Indigenous peoples representatives were able to take part in greater number, due to additional funding as well.



Photo: M.Short

Invitation Lists

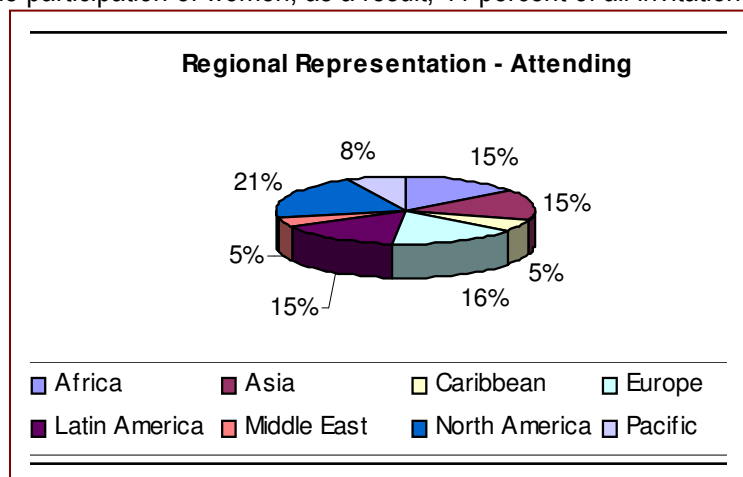
As obtaining visas to the US has been challenging, invitations were distributed early, in order to provide a longer timeframe for partners to obtain visas prior to the meeting. Most participants were granted the visas as requested; however, at least 4 youth and 2 indigenous invited partners were denied visas and were subsequently unable to attend. The invitation list was developed by the UNAW planning team in cooperation with WCC staff who either work closely with the regions or with the 2008 UNAW themes. The request for staff to contribute names included a specific mandate to ensure the representation of women and youth. The program for indigenous people submitted names of potential indigenous participants to invite.

Invitations were distributed to 231 people from 68 countries. Half of those invitations went to partners in Europe (30%) and North America (20%); while Africa (11%), Asia (14%), Caribbean (3%), Latin America (8%), Middle East (2%) and the Pacific (7%) represented the other half.

Among all of the invitations sent, 10% went to youth and 5% to indigenous peoples as both groups were marginally represented in 2007. Although the participation of women was stronger in 2007 than in previous years, the overall representation remained weak (less than 25 percent). Therefore, in 2008, significant efforts were put forth towards increasing the participation of women; as a result, 41 percent of all invitations distributed were addressed to women.

Attending Participants

Overall, the week welcomed 125 participants from 50 countries; 2007 featured 90 participants from 45 countries. Of those 125 participants, 60% represented churches in the global south, a 10 percent increase from 2007. The graph at the right identifies percentages of representation of participants based on regions; its statistics do not include WCC staff or UNAW planning team members. An important highlight is that participation from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America each equaled about 15 percent of all participants.





CCIA Moderator

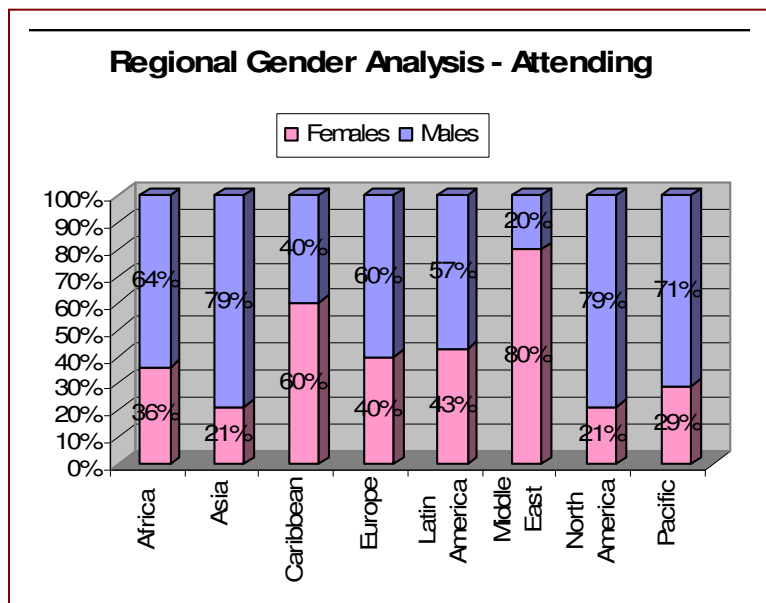
Photo: M. Short

Efforts to increase youth participation and indigenous people's participation are reflected in the participant lists. As noted earlier, a continued difficulty for both of these groups was the visa process. While 12 indigenous people were invited, 9 were able to obtain visas and/or attend. Two of these participants were sponsored by FEINE, a faith-based indigenous organization in Ecuador.

The numbers are similar for youth, where 23 youth were invited, 18 were able to obtain visas and/or attend. The number of youth was further supplemented with representation by interns in the various ecumenical offices in New York and various volunteers. In addition, youth oriented organizations such as the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) each sent two of their own representatives.

Responding to the weak representation of women in previous years with efforts to ensure that invitations were delivered specifically to women, the UNAW planning team was successfully able to increase the participation of women. While 41% of invitations were delivered to women, the overall attendance of women was 42%. This nearly doubled the 2007 figures of female participation.

Still, there is work to be done to decrease the gender disparity of participants throughout all regions. While participation of women increased significantly overall, there is still clear evidence of continued weak representation of women from certain regions. These figures are outlined in the graph at the right; the figures do not include WCC staff or the UNAW planning team in the analysis.



Volunteers ³

UNAW 2008 welcomed 21 volunteers from the Church Center at the United Nations and from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (USA). This was a new partnership with the seminary where seminarians contributed to the meeting as stewards for all of the meals and other logistics, including distributing interpretation equipment and documents. The UNAW planning team warmly welcomed the assistance of all volunteers throughout the week.

³ The volunteers are not included in any of the statistics highlighted above.

World Council of Churches



**Fourth
United Nations Advocacy Week**
17 - 21 November 2008

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Evaluation

Note taker: Catherine Bordeau

Moderator
Dr. Caterina Bain

Ecumenical Regional Centre for Advisory and Service

The UNAW planning committee actively seeks the feedback of participants in order to encourage open dialogue and to seek ways to improve the overall delivery of the UNAW. Participants were able to voice their feedback in a public forum during the closing session along with completing a written survey with open questions. Below are summaries of the public forum and of the written survey.

Public Forum Evaluation Summary

Opportunity for follow-up and improved communication between ecumenical partners, indigenous people, migrants, and women and children were among the leading concerns of respondents in public forum. Many expressed appreciation for the themes addressed at UNAW 2008 but asked how to ensure that the WCC and ecumenical partners will undertake effective follow-up together. Respondents concerned about reaching out to migrants said, “we talked a lot about mutual accountability and follow-up...we all know that we will go home and will be busy, but how can we make it concrete for these actions to occur?” Other participants asked, “the signing of the convention is just one aspect of the work that we do, how do we work with the migrants themselves?” Another participant acknowledged that “follow-up and mutual accountability is really crucial,” while as an ecumenical partner of WCC, pledged to work for “sustainable” follow-up.



Similar to the written evaluations, some of the respondents in the public forum expressed interest in greater inclusion of indigenous people, women and youth within the UNAW discussions. One respondent said, “Indigenous peoples of the Americas have seen that our rights are not really addressed in the agenda...we come to meetings and we don’t have an opportunity to participate.” Another respondent suggested that “we need to intensify efforts to include women, indigenous people and youth in the meeting, while another added, “as we advocate for changes and actions that speak to the needs of particular groups, women and children especially...[and] to the issues raised by the Pacific region, we could collaborate with organizations outside of the ecumenical community, especially universities other regional bodies.”

Mr. Willian Chela (Latin America) expressed a desire for better integration of indigenous concerns in future UNAW agendas and proposed that planning committees include indigenous churches within UNAW planning and offered their resources. Speaking of indigenous churches, he said, “We are committed to working on the issue of migration, especially to the U.S...we want to accompany the immigrant experience.”

Ms. Lina Moukheiber (Middle East) proposed using Facebook as an on-line tool to record the UNAW 2008 event and to facilitate communication, “we can open up a page [on Facebook] and use this technology for climate change...to download pictures of what is happening in the Pacific and to exchange pictures and news.”

Mr. Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi (Pacific Islands) requested confirmation from the UNLO if climate change will continue to be included in the agenda of future UNAW meetings but noted, "We have made some inroads about having a clearer understanding of the issues surrounding climate change, but "would it be possible to have a revolving discussion in the future to see how far we have come?"

At the close of the UNAW, participant evaluation was provided in two forums: a written evaluation form and a public forum. Below is the summary of the results.

Summary: Written Evaluations

Strengths, Weaknesses and Recommendations (Worship, Themes, Mission Visits and Regional Caucus Activities)

Among those who responded to this category, a majority found the worship and themes to be good to excellent (81 and 75 percent respectively). Participants noted that the UNAW program and worship themes were relevant, timely and successfully incorporated diverse representation of cultures and regions. A few respondents thought that the worship lacked emphasis of various gender/ age/ regional/ indigenous groups or that the Latin American region specifically was underrepresented. Among the UNAW themes, some respondents found the themes to be too broad and suggested more specific focus; while other respondents found that there were too many themes, that there was not enough time to fully engage the themes, or that the themes were not regionally balanced. There were few recommendations for improvement, but these varied from "use inclusive language during worship," or have more representation from Eastern Orthodox or Latin American regions.

Over half of the respondents in this category said that the Mission visits and the regional caucuses were good to excellent and provided opportunity for "advocacy in action," as well as an opportunity to "connect" ecumenical leaders from multiple regions. About a third responded that there was no advanced notification of the Mission visits, which did not allow for sufficient preparation and other comments ranged from "disorganization," or Missions were "not knowledgeable" or "dodged" the issues or that there were not enough "high-level" participation from the Missions. Some participants recommended a "mechanism for mission follow-up." Regarding the regional caucuses, nearly a quarter of respondents said there was not enough time for discussion, debate or questions or that they were too late in the day where participant energy levels were lower. Others said that there needed to be more regional "strategic actors" or representatives and a formal mechanism for follow-up. Recommendations included having the regions meet briefly at the end of the day for recapping issues and follow-up.

Methodological evaluation (Sessions, Working Groups, Moderations and Time Spent)

Among those who responded positively about the methods in the Sessions, over half said that they were good to excellent and well managed and nearly half said that there were good speakers and the sessions were inspiring, didactic or tackled good themes. Among those who responded negatively however, they said there were too many speakers or panels in the time allotted, or time management needed improvement while others said that there was not enough time for discussion or debate. Individual recommendations varied and ranged from "provide a social reception at the beginning of the week" to "limit panelists to 15 minutes."



Photo: M. Short

In the Working Groups category, those who responded were more likely to respond negatively and said that there were too many voices and some did not allow opportunity for others to speak, or that smaller groups in private spaces was needed. Individual recommendations varied and ranged from having “participants submit questions in writing to save time” and “to avoid long-winded commentators/ questioners” to, suggest that participants arrive better “prepared [with] basic background material.”

Among those who responded in the Moderators category, seven said that moderation was good to excellent and offered additional perspectives while five said that the moderators did not control the floor sufficiently. Participants who responded in the Time Spent category were more likely to say that there was not enough time for groups to process information or to discuss, debate and ask questions.

Qualitative and Quantitative Evaluation of Participation

Among those who responded about the participation in qualitative and quantitative terms, over half said that the UNAW provided a rich experience, good connection and balance with regional themes and indigenous populations, good diversity (region, church, agency, age), and that group participation was good and the quality was very valuable. Nearly half said that more youth representation was needed and others also said that more women and indigenous peoples representation was needed. Others said that there was not enough time for group discussion, debate and sharing.

Logistical Evaluation (On-line Registration, Accommodations, Transportation, Meals, and Interpretation)

Nearly all respondents said the on-line registration was good to excellent and easy to navigate while 7 percent found it difficult to use, especially if they had a poor internet connection. Thirty-seven percent said logistics were good overall which we interpreted to include accommodations, while 21 percent of all respondents said that the accommodations were poor and some cited The Imperial or Seafarers as being poor to bad. Respondents were more likely to be pleased with all the logistics associated with UNAW and were overwhelmingly pleased with the meals and interpretation. Additional comments included the meeting space and staff and volunteers. Those who commented about the meeting space were more likely to say that it was good or suitable but others said it was not suitable or comfortable (too small, noisy or did not have adequate internet connection). Nearly half of the total respondents positively mentioned the staff and volunteers and were pleased with their work.

Recommendations of the logistics included, providing better email/written communication before the event, providing more materials in French or Spanish languages, and to provide an email confirmation of on-line registrations. Some recommended better accommodations and transportation from the hotels to the UNAW meeting space. Others suggested a better use of recyclable service items (e.g. cups, mugs, plates) especially since climate change was a topic, and to provide coffee/tea at 9:00 a.m. (or prior to each day's sessions). Some recommended more interpreters to balance the workload and more suitable meeting spaces and sound system.