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Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organizations

DPI/NGO Relations and the  
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations  
invite you to the Briefing

***"Determined to Save Succeeding Generations from the Scourge of War"***

**Date:** Thursday, 6 June 2013

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Location:** ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
United Nations Headquarters, New York

**(\*) Please read below instructions on how to enter the premises.**

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### Background Information

The Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations begins with the words "We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind." These opening words continue to serve as a reminder that the UN itself was created to help prevent war, and of the ruin that war can bring upon the world.

Since the UN's creation, the international community has not seen a conflict with the same level of globally widespread catastrophe as the Second World War, which motivated governments toward its creation. Unfortunately, the "scourge of war" has not disappeared. Now, nearly 70 years after the Charter's signing, ongoing violent conflicts continue to inflict unimaginable suffering around the world. Some, like the current crisis in Syria, resulting in over 70,000 deaths so far, have no end in sight.

Although not every part of the world directly experiences widespread violent conflict, the implications of militarization touch every corner of the global village. Over \$1.7 trillion is spent globally on armaments, making up about 2.5 percent of the world's GDP. Figures like these have prompted UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to stress that "the world is over-armed and peace is underfunded."

This Briefing will bring together a diverse panel to discuss the role of war in recent human history and how far humanity has advanced in limiting the scourge of war, particularly since the signing of the UN Charter. The Briefing will highlight various aspects of this topic, including the idea that peace comes through strength, the questioning of increasing militarism in society, and the view that the institution of war should be abolished, just as institutions of slavery, colonialism, apartheid and the prohibition of women from voting have been eliminated.

This Briefing will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and we ask that our audience be seated by 9:45 a.m. sharp.

*MODERATOR*

**Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal**, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information

*OPENING REMARKS*

**H.E. Mr. Paul Seger**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations

*PANEL*

**Ms. Jody Williams**, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Chair of the Nobel Women's Initiative

**Mr. Ralph Zacklin**, Former United Nations Assistant-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, 1998-2005

**Ms. Nounou Booto Meeti**, Programme Manager, Centre for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention

(\* **Due to continuing construction at UN Headquarters, access to the 6 June Briefing will be through the 47<sup>th</sup> Street entrance (which is the entrance to the North Lawn Building). Guest passes will be distributed in the lobby of the North Lawn Building. To get to the ECOSOC Chamber, please walk through the North Lawn Building exiting the building on the east side facing the East River. Please enter the Conference Building via the Rose Garden doors. Access to the conference room for all NGOs and guests will be through the third floor only. NGO Relations Staff and volunteers will be present to point you in the right direction along the way.**

Requests for NGO guest passes should be e-mailed on organization letterhead to the DPI/NGO Resource Centre to [dpingo.briefings@un.org](mailto:dpingo.briefings@un.org) AT LEAST TWO BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR to the Briefing. [Please note that pass requests received at any other email address will not be processed.] NGOs are reminded that this Briefing starts promptly at 10:00 a.m.

***NOTE: This Briefing will be webcast live at [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org). You can post questions and comments during the session on our Facebook ([facebook.com/UNDPINGOPartners4Change](https://www.facebook.com/UNDPINGOPartners4Change)) or Twitter hashtag (#DPINGO).***