



DPI/NGO Relations invites you to a

Briefing

On

Disarmament: Fresh Answers to Old Questions

Thursday, 30 October 2008

10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

in

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium

“Let us call a truce to terror. Let us invoke the blessings of peace. And as we build an international capacity to keep peace, let us join in dismantling the national capacity to wage war.”

Former President of the United States, John F. Kennedy United Nations 1961

Background Information

Recently, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted that disarmament had remained “only an aspiration, rather than a reality” despite the fact that the world had been pursuing the issue of general and complete disarmament for many years, supported by every Secretary-General, hundreds of UN resolutions and the endorsement of all Member States. Why then, despite the fact that disarmament remains one of the most serious challenges to international peace and security are Member States still at odds on key issues such as negotiating a nuclear-weapons convention or an Arms Trade Treaty? Why do states that have no such weapons still face dangers from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons? What is holding up the CTBT [Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty] from coming into force, or a fissile material treaty from being negotiated? On a more positive note, what made progress possible on landmines and cluster munitions? And, most importantly, what can civil society do to ensure that disarmament advances?

For further information, please contact:

United Nations, DPI/NGO Relations, Room S-1070 J

Tel: (212) 367-9380 (212) 963-7709 * Fax: (212) 963-6914 * E-mail: section1d@un.org

The Secretary-General has noted, “when disarmament advances, the world advances.” This meeting will be a good opportunity to explore where things stand and what is needed to get a fresh start not only on disarmament but on strengthening the UN system of international peace and security as a whole.

Moderator: Maria-Luisa Chavez; Chief, NGO Relations, Department of Public Information (DPI)

Speakers

Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

David Webb, Vice Chair, the UK Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

John Burroughs, Executive Director, the New York-based Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy (LCNP)

Michael Renner, Senior Researcher, Worldwatch Institute

Clare da Silva, Legal Advisor, Control Arms campaign

Cora Weiss, President of the Hague Appeal for Peace

Question and Answer Session

Representatives of NGOs are encouraged to participate during the Question & Answer segment which will follow after each panel.

The live webcast of the event will be available at www.un.org/dpi/ngosection

Preview of next week's briefing:

Next week's briefing, entitled “*Millennium Villages, A New Approach to Fighting Poverty*” will be from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium.

Briefings are held in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. United Nations-produced videos relevant to the briefing theme are sometimes screened at 10:00 a.m. on the morning of the briefing.

For briefing information please call the DPI/NGO Information Line at +1-212-963-7709 or +1-917-367-9380, or e-mail section1d@un.org. To receive the briefing information electronically and to be added to our e-mailing list, please e-mail dpingo@un.org. You can also visit the DPI/NGO Section website at www.un.org/dpi/ngosection, where an archived webcast of the briefings may also be available.

Should you require a guest pass to attend an NGO briefing, please **fax** your name and affiliation to +1-212-963-2819 **no later than two days before a briefing**. All guest passes should be picked up at the Pass & ID Office on the morning of the briefing, which is located on the corner of First Avenue and 45th Street at the ground level.

United Nations, DPI/NGO Resource Centre, Room GA-1B37

Tel: +1-212-963-7233, 7234, 7078 * Fax: +1-212-963-2819 * E-mail: dpingo@un.org