

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN  
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES**

**IAW website: <http://www.womenalliance.com>**

**Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities  
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales**

**IAW NEWSLETTER –September 2005  
SPECIAL – Millennium Development Goals**



**Equal Rights**

*Dear IAW members,*

*The Millennium Development Goals have almost been drowned by a tsunami of criticisms, amendments and complaints and a lack of courage and commitment on the part of many of the delegates. We knew about the harsh words from the United States via its newly appointed ambassador to the UN with his vehement anti-UN stance but we expected more from the leaders of many other countries and from NGOs.*

*It was hoped that by having all those world leaders present there would be some really strong voices, brave enough to undertake strong action on all the MDGs and perhaps inspire others. Instead there was a lot of posturing on the world stage with many using the current criticisms of the UN and the Secretary-General to back up their lack of support.*

*It seems that women's movements throughout the world and civil society are our main hope for keeping the MDGs afloat.*

*This Special Newsletter brings you an overview of the U.N. Summit – before, during and after.*

### **WHAT WOMEN WERE SAYING BEFORE THE SUMMIT**

New York - August 26 - The Gender Monitoring Group of the World Summit—an alliance of three leading non-governmental women's rights and development organizations--DAWN, The Center for Women's Global Leadership and the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)—today expressed deep concern over recent comments by new US Ambassador John Bolton regarding finalization of the crucial outcomes document of the United Nations 2005 World Summit. The organizations, which represent and work with women from around the world, have been actively involved over the past six months in the process leading to the World Summit on September 14-16 with a particular interest in ensuring that proposals before the world leaders include a gender perspective.

At the eleventh hour US Ambassador John Bolton is proposing last minute changes to the draft plan, which would undermine the draft Outcome Document. Bolton's proposed changes would weaken proposals for development, debt relief, Official Development Assistance (ODA), disarmament, and the environment. The Gender Monitoring Group argues that the United States' demands for line-by-line negotiations on the whole text, or alternatively, a short summary text, will in fact inhibit a successful outcome at this late stage, and could even unravel the entire Summit process.

#### **Tactics**

“This latest move by U.S. Ambassador Bolton puts us back on the merry go round once again just as we were about to cross the finish line. This tired tactic by the United States to wait until the eleventh hour of a year long negotiation to demand drastic revisions is simply a subterfuge for undermining the entire process. Clearly, they don't want reform that will result in a stronger UN. We saw this same approach of hijacking the conference during the ten year review of the Beijing Platform for Action. But the countries of the world stood firm despite threats and bullying by the U.S. We believe most of the world's leaders remain committed to comprehensive reform which links human rights, development and peace and security as the central mission of a revitalized United Nations”.

*What's at stake for women are all the promises of equality, empowerment and women's human rights contained in CEDAW (the “Women's Rights” treaty), the Beijing Platform for Action, Cairo*

*Programme of Action and other government agreements of the 1990s. Women are concerned that their voices will not be fully heard and their perspectives will not be fully incorporated into the proposals that come out of the World Summit.*  
June Zeitlin, Executive Director of WEDO.

## MEDIA COMMENTS

UN, September 14. The **New York Times** squarely blamed the United States - and specifically its "notoriously undiplomatic" Ambassador John Bolton - for the impending failure of the summit. ***The Times accused Bolton of insisting on a very long list of unilateral demands.*** "The predictable effect was to transform what had been a painful and difficult search for workable diplomatic compromises into a competitive exercise in political posturing." As a result, said the Times editorial, the most tragic loss is a genuine opportunity to help the one billion people around the world who each live on less than a dollar a day.

### **IPS - UN Summit of World Leaders Under Heavy Fire**

UN, Sep 14 (IPS) - The U.N. summit meeting of some 175 world leaders opened Wednesday with predictable political hoopla -- and a thunderous bang. The political fireworks did not come from heads of government or heads of state present at the gathering, but were set off mostly by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international relief agencies clobbering the world body. ***Virtually every single NGO, most of them dedicated to monitoring the United Nations, tore apart the 35-page outcome document to be adopted by world leaders on Friday.***  
Thalif Deen: UN Bureau Chief & Regional Director, North America, Inter Press Service News Agency  
Read more on <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=30270>

## THE OUTCOME

### **The Guardian - World Leaders Approve U.N. Document**

Saturday September 17, 2005

History's largest gathering of world leaders fell far short Friday of completing the major changes U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan sought to fight poverty, terrorism and human rights abuses - but the leaders took a first step. The three-day summit brought presidents, prime ministers and kings from 151 of the 191 U.N. member states to the United Nations - a record number according to U.N. officials. At the end of the summit, the leaders adopted a 35-page document by consensus and then burst into applause. The leaders' approval of the document - which commits governments to achieving U.N. goals to combat poverty and creates a commission to help move countries from war to peace - came alongside important developments in other areas.

Instead of adopting Annan's sweeping blueprint to enable the world body to deal with the challenges of a new century, they were presented with a diluted 35-page document. ***The final document represented the lowest common denominator that all countries could agree on after months of negotiations, and even then Cuba and Venezuela expressed reservations.***

*Note: there was no Spanish translation of the document)*

The most significant planks in the final document are the creation of a new ***Peacebuilding Commission*** to help countries emerging from conflict and an acceptance by all governments of the collective international responsibility to protect people from genocide, war crimes and ethnic cleansing.

For the first time, the declaration condemns terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes," but skirts the contentious issue of defining terrorism because of objections that independence struggles would be targeted.

***Divisions were so strong that the entire section on disarmament and nonproliferation in the document was dropped, a move which Annan called "a disgrace."*** Expansion of the U.N. Security Council, which consumed months of negotiations in the run-up to the summit, proved so contentious that it was shelved, and the issue was reduced to a single paragraph in the final document.

It agrees to establish a ***Human Rights Council*** to replace the Human Rights Commission, which has

been widely criticized for becoming politicized and having rights abusers among its members - but there is no guarantee this won't happen with the new body.

The original thrust of the summit was to take action to implement U.N. goals stemming from the declaration by world leaders at their last summit in 2000. They include cutting poverty by half, ensuring universal primary education and stemming the AIDS pandemic, all by 2015.

**Bush endorsed all the goals - except calling for rich nations to spend 0.7 percent of their GDP on development aid**, but his overall support was welcomed by a number of developing countries and anti-poverty activists.

After a year of criticism over reported corruption in the U.N. oil-for-food program in Iraq and allegations of bribery by U.N. purchasing officials, diplomats agreed to create *an internal ethics office* but they didn't give Annan the authority he wanted to make sweeping management changes.

Many of these issues will remain on the agenda over the next 12 days during the annual ministerial meeting of the General Assembly. The meeting begins Saturday morning with a speech by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

On <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uslatest/story/0,1282,-5284256,00.html>

## THE POSITION OF SOME LEADERS

Greek President Kostas Karamanlis said the United Nations, built for the post-World War II era, "has to adapt in order to be effective in the new international environment." "The United Nations, the only truly global institution of humanity, endowed with a unique legitimacy, must respond to the new realities and challenges," he said.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is expected to respond to a European demand for Iran to halt **uranium enrichment** in his speech Saturday afternoon. According to European diplomats and officials, Ahmadinejad may offer to put Iran's nuclear activities under broader international supervision, but will not give up Tehran's right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful uses. The diplomats in Vienna, Austria, where the U.N. nuclear agency is headquartered, spoke on condition of anonymity because of the confidentiality of the EU-Iran meetings.

On another perennial global trouble spot, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon received some welcome returns during the summit for withdrawing from **Gaza** - an unusual meeting Thursday between Israel's foreign ministers and his counterpart from Qatar. Sharon met Jordan's King Abdullah II on Friday morning, just before the king's summit speech in which he called for "zero tolerance" against extremism and said his Arab kingdom is working to promote moderate Islam across the globe.

President Bush, who two years ago questioned whether the United Nations was relevant, surprised many by giving the world body his strong backing. He also won praise for declaring that poverty breeds terrorism and despair and challenging world leaders to abolish all trade tariffs and subsidies to promote prosperity and opportunity in struggling nations.

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*(NOTE: The Monterrey Consensus (named for a 2002 economic summit in Mexico) includes a commitment by rich countries to spend 0.7 percent of their national income (less than three-quarters of a percent) on development-something that the US has fought tooth and nail against and still refuses to do. In fact, the US-the world's richest country-spends less than a quarter of one percent on development (0.18 percent). Bush is much more enthusiastic about the other provisions of the Monterrey Consensus: poor countries implementing political and economic reforms demanded by wealthy countries in exchange for aid and debt relief.*

On: <http://www.commondreams.org/views05/0916-29.htm>

**Kofi Annan** said, "Obviously, we didn't get everything we wanted," he told reporters, "but with 191 member states, it's not easy to get an agreement". While praising member states for approving his two proposals to create a new Human Rights Council and a Peacebuilding Commission, Annan was forced

to admit that one of the major drawbacks of the document was in disarmament and non-proliferation.

By Edith M. Lederer, Associated Press Writer

On <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uslatest/story/0,1282,-5284256,00.html>

## WHAT NGOs AND INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AGENCIES ARE SAYING

### UN Summit of World Leaders Under Heavy Fire

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***Virtually every single NGO, most of them dedicated to monitoring the United Nations, tore apart the 35-page outcome document to be adopted by world leaders on Friday.***

Jim Paul, executive director of the **New York-based Global Policy Forum** told *Inter Press Service* (IPS). "The text (of the outcome document) is a bummer." He said the document, which was meant to spell out a political and economic agenda for the 21st century, as originally envisioned by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, is "weak and full of platitudes and generalities."

"Generally, it seems a step backward from the Millennium Summit of 2000".

UN, Sep 16 - An African diplomat recounts a quote attributed to a former head of state who once remarked: "***We fought a war against poverty - and poverty won.***"

"It seems that world leaders have done their best this week to make poverty win," says Hellen Tombo of the **Global Call to Action Against Poverty** (GCAP), described as the world's largest anti-poverty movement.

Commenting on the lack-lustre three-day summit meeting which concluded Friday, Tombo told IPS: "This week we have seen posturing rather than progress."

*However, the millions of campaigners working as part of the Global Call to Action against Poverty will not be disheartened by this failure of world leaders - more than 170 by last count - to take action on poverty, she said. Asked what comes next, Tombo said: "We will put even greater energy in ensuring justice for the world's poor when the World Trade Organisation (WTO) meets this year in December. We will continue to wear the white band as the symbol of our continued fight for justice."*

Nicola Reindorp, head of **Oxfam International**, was equally critical of the action plan to be adopted on Friday. "With the exception of agreeing to stop future genocides, world leaders should be embarrassed to sign it," she said. "We wanted a bold agenda to tackle poverty, but instead we have a brochure showcasing past commitments." She said "there is very little to celebrate" in the latest summit outcome document, which was approved by the General Assembly on Tuesday after several all-night marathon sessions, and will be finally endorsed by world leaders.

"The one area where governments look set to show that they are able to act boldly is on their responsibility to protect civilians (in war zones)," she added.

**Save the Children Canada CEO**, Rita S. Karakas, expressed disappointment that world leaders failed to use the UN Summit to advance their collective commitment to halve extreme poverty and hunger, cut child mortality by two-thirds, and ensure the basic education of every child by 2015.

"The issues at stake are very high - above all for children, who make up 50% of those affected by poverty worldwide," said Karakas. "More than 800 million people go to bed hungry and 50,000 people die every day from poverty-related causes."

"We are more disappointed than we can say that the Summit has not resulted in greater delivery of resources and policies to achieve Millennium Development Goals. In fact, governments have failed even to acknowledge that the first MDG target for 2005 - that of equity for girls and boys in primary education - has not been reached." Save the Children Canada decries "catastrophic lost opportunity" at UN Summit, praises Canada for efforts to protect children.

On <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uslatest/story/0,1282,-5284256,00.html>

Neil Watkins, national coordinator **Jubilee USA Network**, said that "as the summit is underway, it is clear that world leaders are failing to provide the bold leadership needed to address the crisis of global

poverty".

Watkins also pointed out that world leaders must embrace and go well beyond the commitments made by the Group of Eight (G8) industrialised countries (the United States, Britain, Germany, Italy, France, Canada, Japan and Russia) last July if the MDGs are to be met.

The pledges made by the G8 included a commitment to provide 50 billion dollars a year in aid to fight poverty by 2010. Watkins said that a recent study found *at least 62 low-income nations would require full debt cancellation - in addition to more aid and trade justice* - as a first step towards achieving MDGs.

And Saradha Iyer of the **Malaysia-based Third World Network** says that the outcome document adopted by world leaders on Friday was "cleverly-crafted" but with "watered-down language" that was "agreed or imposed upon the majority of member states".

While this has avoided a failure of historic proportions, Iyer told IPS, "It is clear that the United Nations shows signs of degenerating into the biggest talk - but not act- shop in the world."

She also said the reality is that presidents and prime ministers - who came in hordes to the summit meeting -- "are isolated from the devastating impacts of global poverty".

Bill Pace, executive director of the **World Federalist Movement**, said that: "The main U.N. reform crisis was not in management but in decision-making.

***He criticized the closed-door consensus-based negotiations (which resulted in the final outcome document) where a few governments were allowed to exercise a veto over the will of the overwhelming majority of member states.***

On: <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=30311>

## MEMBER STATES HAVE THEIR SAY

### UNITED KINGDOM

Blair tries to refocus U.N. on aiding poorest nations. The world will never be able to give Africa as much help as it needs, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said yesterday, but if current promises to double aid to the continent are kept, it will make a massive difference.

### CHINA

*The Chinese president Hu Jintao put forward a four-point proposal for building a harmonious world with lasting peace and common prosperity:*

*- A new security concept featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation must be cultivated.*

*- The United Nations should take concrete measures to implement the Millennium Goals, particularly in the area of accelerating the development of developing countries.*

***- Every country has the right to independently choose its own social system and path of development.***

*- Rational and necessary reforms should be carried out to maintain the authority of the United Nations and improve its efficacy and capacity to take on new threats and new challenges.*

On [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-09/17/content\\_3501679.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-09/17/content_3501679.htm)

### NIGERIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Nigerian President Olesgun Obasanjo and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso also appeared at the session, saying that ***pledges to double African aid by 2010 made at the G-8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, in July still could fall apart.*** He urged donor countries to follow through, emphasizing

### UNITED STATES

*President Bush surprised diplomats Wednesday by publicly embracing the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which the United States had agreed to in 2000 but had recently sought to keep out of the U.N. summit's final accord. After forging an understanding with other nations that the pledge to increase foreign aid did not commit the United States to giving a specific percentage of national income, the United States allowed the goals to be included. Bush also vowed to lift trade tariffs and agricultural subsidies that price poor countries out of the market — **but only if other***

*nations do the same.*

#### **AFRICAN UNION**

*The African Union received very little support from outside Africa in its permanent seat aspiration, which makes its desire to obtain two permanent seats with veto seem "reachless."*

*In a marked departure from the recent stand of the AU, its current chairman Olusegun Obasanjo said the continent's quest for two permanent seats with veto on the UN Security Council was "**unrealistic.**"*

#### **Note**

To avoid misunderstanding, we always send the IAW Newsletter twice: 1) in the body of the e-mail, and 2) as an attachment, saved in Word 97 (changed). Both have exactly the same content. The only difference is, that the attachment has a better lay-out, so it will be easy for Affiliates to copy it and send it by post to IAW members without e-mail.

Also, please advise Pat Richardson if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate organisations with an e-mail address.

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