

60 Annual Department of Public Information (DPI)/NGO Conference

5-7 September 2007

United Nations, New York

The 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, entitled “Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All”, took place in UN Headquarters, New York from September 5 – 7, 2007. Around 1,800 participants representing over 500 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) from more than 80 countries attended the Conference. The three day event consisted of 7 roundtables dealing with climate change and related topics and 33 midday workshops. Round Tables dealt with the following topics:

- Climate Change: The Scientific Evidence
- Indigenous Peoples, Culture and Traditional Knowledge
- Water Security and Climate Change
- Coping with Climate Change: Best Land Use Practices
- The Economics and Politics of Energy and Climate Change
- Streamlining the System
- Sustainable Development, Accountability & Ethical Standards

A lot of enthusiasm, zeal and interest were evident among the participants. Hope this will translate into concrete actions back in home countries of the participants.

The keynote address brought out the fact that Climate change has taken central stage in the United Nations. 2007 is a remarkable year. For the first time in the history, humanity is confronted with a phenomenon, whether rich or poor, climate change is a challenge to everyone’s existence.

Other speakers highlighted the following: “We cannot solve if we all do not unite. 2000 scientists worked on climate change. This scientific report has taken center stage. It has galvanized all. People are finally asking the Government and Business sector “What are you doing about it?” Climate is being discussed at all levels political, regional and local. It is transformative in a number of ways. Ecologists are becoming informed economists and economists are becoming informed ecologists. In the floods around the world, it is the poor who are affected most. Climate change does pose a threat to everyone’s work, be it in the area of health or social sector, etc. We live on this planet with 6 ½ billion people and we live with an infrastructure which we cannot afford. In Greenland they are growing potatoes”. It was stated that 1/1000 of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would be required to tackle climate change.

Deputy Secretary-General stated that “the recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have settled the basic science, and silenced any lingering doubters. The Panel’s report has unequivocally confirmed the warming of our climate system, and linked it directly to

human activity”. The Secretary-General has identified climate change as one of his top priorities since his very first days in office. In one of the sessions it was mentioned that Germany has become number one in wind power.

For more information please visit www.undpingoconference.org or MMS UN Office.

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