

BUREAU EXECUTIF PERMANENT (ERC)

*International Commission for External Relations
Commission Internationale des Relations Extérieures
Internationale Kommission für Aussenbeziehungen
Comision para Relaciones Exteriores*

NGO in Consultative (Special) Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; in Consultative Status with the Council of Europe, the Organisation of American States and UNESCO; International NGO maintaining operational relations within EUROPOL.



QUARTERLY ERC NEWSLETTER

APRIL - JUNE 2012

GENEVA – SWITZERLAND

THULLIEZ Georges - UNITED NATIONS Representative

Here are my activities for the period April - June 2012 :

- Follow the following conferences:

Council of Human Rights, the 30.04.2012 at 04.05.2012

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, from 30.04 to 18.05.2012

Committee against Torture, the 01.06.2012 at 07.05

UPR, from 21.06 to 04.006.07.2012

Committee on the Rights of the Child, from 29.05 to 15.06.2012

Council of Human Rights, the 06.07.2012 at 18.06, with the theme of human trafficking and cultural rights.

20 and 21 May 2012, participation in the IPA meeting in LUGANO SWITZERLAND. At this meeting, I made a power point presentation of our group ERC, particularly relating to my activities within the UN GENEVA. This presentation was highly appreciated, and a "discovery" for a number of IPA members.

A one-of-a-kind UN Human Rights database

The updated Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI) database is "one of the most important human rights research tools that has been created in the past twenty years," according to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay. This comprehensive database is the only

online tool, which brings together human rights recommendations from all parts of the UN system.



The Universal Human Rights Index database increases visibility, and offers easier access to recommendations on human rights, both key objectives of the UN Human Rights office, Pillay says. States, international organizations, NGOs, as well as individuals, have improved access to up-to-date human rights efforts worldwide.

At the relaunch celebration in March, 2012, Pillay said, “we have received very enthusiastic comments from States’ representatives, independent experts, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, and researchers, noting that the

THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA RELEASES ITS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011



27 April 2012 - It highlights that in 2011, 1,550 staff members representing 118 nationalities were working at UNOG and that the Palais des Nations welcomed 97,192 visitors

The United Nations Office in Geneva released today its annual report on the activities carried out by the UN largest European office in 2011 to contribute to the Organization’s efforts to meet global challenges. In his introduction, the Director-General stressed the “powerful transformations” which marked 2011 and the “inescapable need for the international community to meet these challenges together”. The report shows how the staff of UNOG worked quietly behind the scenes in support of these multilateral efforts.

Among the highlights of 2011, the report draws particular attention to the Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention, held at the end of the year, which adopted a series of measures to strengthen the Convention. The report also mentions the communication efforts undertaken to convey the lessons of history on to the next generation and recalls the annual Holocaust memorial event as well as the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda. It further describes UNOG’s support to the United Nations action in the field, and how the Office “enables the enablers” by providing essential services. Special sections focus on efforts to promote sustainability and greening operations at UNOG, as well as on the Strategic Heritage Plan for the protection of the legacy of the Palais des Nations and its renovation.

Some interesting figures are provided: in 2011, 1,550 staff members, representing 118 nationalities, were working at UNOG and 9,528 employees were working for the UN system in Geneva. Diplomats of 184 permanent missions, permanent observer missions and

permanent observer offices are accredited to UNOG. The report also indicates that the Palais des Nations received 97,192 visitors last year.

3 June 2012 – Ban calls on nations to ramp up actions against terrorism

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today called on nations to boost their efforts to combat terrorism, highlighting four pillars to prevent and counter the global scourge.

“The need is eminently clear. Terrorism continues to affect all regions of the world. It has left a heavy toll of ruined lives and deferred hopes for peace and prosperity,” Mr. Ban said in his remarks to the second meeting of the Advisory Board of the UN Centre for Counter Terrorism (UNCCT) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. “But the world is fighting back against this menace.”

The UNCCT was created in September 2010, with the support of the Government of Saudi Arabia, and seeks to support the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2006.

Mr. Ban stressed that countries need to focus on realizing the four key areas of action of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which consist of tackling the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, preventing and combating terrorism, building States' capacity to counter terrorism, and ensuring respect for human rights against the backdrop of the fight

1 June 2012 - COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE CONCLUDES FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Issues Concluding Observations on Reports of Albania, Armenia, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Greece and Rwanda, and in Absence of a Special Report on Syria

The Committee against Torture concluded its forty-eighth session today, issuing its concluding observations and recommendations on reports from Albania, Armenia, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Greece and Rwanda which it reviewed during the session, and also on the situation in Syria in the absence of a special report by Syria.

All the countries reviewed are among the 147 States parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and are bound by the terms of the treaty to submit periodic reports on efforts to ensure that such human rights violations do not occur on their territories.

The Committee also agreed that reports from Bolivia, Burundi, Estonia, Guatemala, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mauritania, Netherlands, Poland, Tunisia, United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan will be reviewed at the Committee's fiftieth session.

A call to save the human rights treaty body system

“The establishment of the human rights treaty bodies and the evolution of the treaty body system is one of the greatest achievements in the efforts of the international community to promote and protect human rights,” United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said in her report on the strengthening of the human rights treaty body system (PDF). Pillay confirms in her report that this very system is in a crisis and cannot be sustained without the immediate action to help strengthen and improve it.

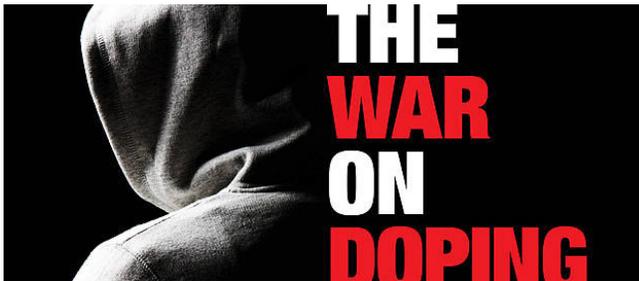
PARIS – France – MARTINET Benoit **UNESCO Representative**

- May 23 to May 29: Consultation by UNESCO of the NGO. Actually, the contribution of NGOs in the programming cycle of the UNESCO is an important pillar of the new Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with NGOs. Regarding IPA, two questionnaires, one relating to the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021, and the other to the Draft April 5 & 6: Technical cooperation with Police from Chili.
- April 23: UNESCO: NGO International Day colloquium on "Early Childhood Care and Education: Seeds for the Future", which is part of the activities undertaken within the Global Campaign for Education Action Week. Defined as the period between birth and age of eight, early childhood is where the foundation for life is created. Every child deserves a secure environment and care. The seminar is to contribute to an enhanced partnership that ensures the fulfilment of young children's right. In particular, it aims to highlight the role and contribution of NGOs.
- April 23: UNESCO: World Book and Copyright Day. By celebrating this Day throughout the world, UNESCO seeks to promote the protection of intellectual property through copyright.
- Programme and Budget for 2014-2017, have been written.



- May 25: Opening of the Africa week. Each year, with the support of the UNESCO, Africa's Ambassadors to France and to UNESCO organize Africa Day on 25 May. The date marks the birth of the Organization for African Unity, the OAU, and celebrates Africa in its richness and diversity, reinforces the solidarity among its people and promotes regional and international cooperation.

- June 7: International Avant Premiere of the documentary "The War on Doping". In the run up to the opening of the 2012 London Olympic games, UNESCO host a pre-release screening of the documentary film "The War on Doping" at its Headquarters, in Paris. The gathering brought together key people from both international sport and the world anti-doping movements.



UNESCO is a leading United Nations organization for the subject matter of sport (the International Convention against Doping in Sport, which entered into force in 2005). The film followed in meetings with decision-makers in and around the most powerful

sport federations. The projection had been followed by a debate including the participation of the film's director, the Swedish Mats Omne.

- June 11: Information meeting for NGOs on the preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2017 at UNESCO Headquarters. The aim of this meeting was to better coordinate the participation of NGOs in this important process for the UNESCO.

WASHINGTON - USA – BRIEN Hugh
Organization of American States Representative

ADVANCED COURSE ON CYBER SECURITY IN PANAMA

The Secretariat of the Inter -American Committee against terrorism (OAS) held an advanced workshop in cyber security in Panama City, Panama from 4/9/12 to 4/12/12. Fifteen Panamanian technicians were joined by colleagues from Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Peru, Ecuador and Trinidad.

The course instructors were from Software Engineering Institute of Carnegie-Mellon University.

JOINT STATEMENTS OF AVIATION SECURITY:

20 directors of Civil Aviation Security from north, central South America, Caribbean and other international organizations drafted a joint statement on Aviation Security in Caracas, Venezuela

JOINT CARGO SECURITY PLANS:

The OAS organized a 5 day regional training exercise in Cargo Security in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from April 16 to April 20, 2012.

SUB-REGIONAL EXERCISE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA ON TRAVEL DOCUMENT SECURITY WORKSHOP:

A Travel Document was held in Panama City, Panama which focused on four main areas, (1) Travel Document Security, (2) Assessing security of the issuing and handling of travel documents, (3) Evidence of identity and (4) Border Controls.

TRAINING COURSE ON TRAVEL DOCUMENT EXAMINATION AND FRAUD PREVENTION:

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 5/14-5/18/2012

A course was held of the above subject on the dates indicated. Experts from the US

Department of Homeland Security Forensic laboratory of the Immigration Service conducted the exercise.

20 officers from Nicaragua and 15 from Honduras attended the seminar and who responsible for migration and Border Control activities.

MARITIME SECURITY-PANAMA TRAINING:

Customs: The training presented included 3 ten -day comprehensive training sessions-one in Panama City, Panama and 2 in Colon, Panama. In addition to port employees, the courses included members of agencies tasked with supporting port security on an ongoing basis.

LEGISLATIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

A workshop on the above subject was held in Lima, Peru with the assistance and jointly with UNODC from April 25 to April 26, 2012.

REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES ON CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION:

A workshop on cross-border cooperation in fighting Terrorism in Latin America was held in Colombia in March, 2010.

BRUXELLES - BELGIQUE – ANTOINE Philippe
European Institutions Representative

New contact in the European Parliament: Mr. Alessandro DAVOLI, director at DG Internal Policies, Policy Department Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs. Following these contacts, it was proposed to combine the various IPA meetings and forums of interest to our association, Police & Justice issues at the international level.

- Other regular contacts with the European Commission.
- Assistance to the seminar on counterfeiting in Gimborn. At my request, Mr. VANSTEENKISTE, EUROPOL expert in these subjects agreed to come give a presentation.