

Civil Society to be Represented at the High-level Event on the MDGs

16 September 2008 - Six representatives of civil society have been invited by the UN Secretary-General to speak at the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They will speak on behalf of global civil society and will address the various themes under discussion as well as offer new ideas on the achievement of the MDGs. All six are well known leaders of Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and are active on the MDGs.

Roundtable 1: Poverty and Hunger

Mr. Ashok Bharti (India), Convener, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (GCAP India)
For interviews in NY: Zak Bleicher - Mobile: 810.394.7211 / Office: 212.963.3117
Web: <http://www.wadanatodo.net/>

Born in Basti Rajaram, a slum for untouchables near Jama Masjid in old Delhi, Ashok was one among seven children. Growing up as a poor Dalit, Ashok has a clear understanding of the vulnerabilities of underprivileged communities. Mr. Bharti is English-speaking.

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan is a national campaign to hold the government accountable to its promises to end poverty, social exclusion & discrimination – including the MDGs. Since 2004, the movement has mobilised more than 500,000 people.

Mr. Ndiogou Fall (Senegal), President, Network of Peasant and Agricultural Producer Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA)
For interviews in NY: Flore-Anne Bourgeois - Mobile: 347.845.3485 / Office: 212.963.0152
Web: <http://www.roppa.info>

Ndiogou Fall is President of the Executive Committee of ROPPA, the main umbrella group for peasant farmers in West Africa. ROPPA gathers organizations from 10 different countries in the region representing more than 40 millions peasants. The organization focuses on capacity building and advocacy work at the local, regional and international levels. Mr. Fall is French-speaking.

As President of ROPPA, Mr. Fall has been representing peasant's and farmer's interests at major regional and international meetings dealing with agricultural and development issues (ECOWAS, WTO, etc.) and has been particularly involved in discussions around the current food crisis.

Roundtable 2: Education and Health

Mr. Charles MacCormack (USA), Chairman of the Board, InterAction
For interviews in NY: Eileen Burke – Mobile: 203.216.0718 / Mike Kiernan 202.460.0614
Web: www.interaction.org

Dr. MacCormack received his doctorate and master's degrees from Columbia University and his undergraduate degree from Middlebury College. He was a National Science Foundation Fellow and a Fulbright Fellow. He also serves as the President and CEO of Save the Children US. Mr. MacCormack is English-speaking.

InterAction is the largest coalition of U.S.-based international NGOs focused on the world's poor and most vulnerable people. Collectively, InterAction's more than 165 members work in every developing country. The U.S. public shows its support for this work through contributions to InterAction members totaling around \$6 billion annually.

Ms. Dorothy Ngoma (Malawi), Executive Director of the National Organization of Nurses and Midwives of Malawi

For interviews in NY: Mobile: +265 08 838 964 and +265 09 838 964

Acknowledged as an extraordinary leader in nursing, gender issues, education and social development, Dorothy Ngoma has played a significant role in shaping the stature and organisation of nursing in Malawi. A vigorous campaigner on behalf of the citizens of Malawi, she has persistently lobbied officials about conditions in the country's hospitals, clinics and schools. Ms. Ngoma is English-speaking.

Roundtable 3: Environmental Sustainability

Ms. Barbara Stocking (U.K.), CEO Oxfam GB

For interviews in NY: Louis Belanger – Mobile: 202.321.2967

Web: www.oxfam.org.uk

Barbara Stocking has been Director of Oxfam GB since May 2001. During the last 4 years, Barbara has led Oxfam's response to humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, for the Tsunami and the Pakistan Earthquake. Ms. Stocking is English-speaking.

Ms. Stocking also represents a grouping of some of the world's major international NGOs including Oxfam International, World Vision, Save the Children, Debt AIDS Trade Africa (DATA) and Comic Relief, that are together launching a campaign on 25 September called "In My Name" which will run up to 2010.

Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez (Honduras), Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras / President of Caritas Internationalis

For interviews in NY: Joe Donnelly – Mobile: 917.747.0652

Web: www.caritas.org

Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, S.D.B., Archbishop of Tegucigalpa (Honduras), was ordained for the Salesians on 28 June 1970 and holds a doctorate in theology from the Pontifical Lateran University, Rome, and a diploma in clinical psychology and psychotherapy from Leopold Franz University, Innsbruck.

Cardinal Rodríguez was elected on 5 June 2007 as the new Caritas Internationalis President by the Caritas Confederation members. There are Caritas organizations in 162 countries and Caritas members directly help 24 million people in 200 countries and territories. Cardinal Rodríguez is Spanish-speaking.



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