

Issues before the GA September 2007:

NGO Meeting with Mr. Orr - UN

Mr. Orr from the Office of the Secretary General stated that more and more the UN is being asked to move into more difficult places than ever before and is now the primary service provider in the world. There is now intense demand on the organization on core political, moral and service needs of the world's populace.

Challenges: Because of all of the above the UN is facing huge challenges on its capacity to deliver. He outlined key issues before the world body which will be discussed at next week's GA.

1. **Peace and Security:** Sudan; Middle East; Iraq; Lebanon
2. **Social and Economic** – demands as outlined by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were the primary motivational tool to focus efforts and enhance partnership for change. In the Humanitarian field UN personnel are in the field taking care of the basic needs of refugees; internally displaced persons. Delivery of MDGs are key to the work of the UN
3. **Human Rights:** This is a major organ of the world body and civil society needs to play a pivotal role in keeping governments focused on what they agreed to in the area of Human Rights.
4. **Reform of the UN** itself is another key issue and there is need for system wide coherence so that UN bodies talk with and work with each other. There is also need for careful monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the UN system and again this needs careful monitoring.
5. **Climate Change:** This is the key issue before the UN today. Why? It is *the one* universal issue affecting every person living on the planet. Getting member governments to the same page at the negotiating table is vital as there is a ticking clock on this issue. How might civil society help? **The Peoples** of the world need to go to the **leaders of the world** and demand change.
6. **Africa:** Africa cuts across everything the UN does. It is the most vulnerable continent to Climate Change. It is also the place of least consciousness of the role Africa can play in Africa. The vast majority of security undertaken by the UN takes place on the African continent. The vast majority of the UN's humanitarian work takes place in Africa. The need for the North-South Partnership to be strengthened is vital. The South is doing its part but the North needs to come on board and live up to the commitments made. Africa is also the place where most Global Health initiatives are taking place. **The big problem is that the brightest and best of that continent are not working there but in the USA and Europe.** With the support from the Global Community the potential will be unleashed. What could Africa do if the resources it has been promised were delivered? If its brightest and best worked at home?

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September 21, 2007