



**Report to December 13-16, 2008 CONGO Board Meeting
from NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security**

The period since the last CONGO Board Meeting has been a productive one for our Committee, particularly during the fall. We appreciate the opportunity of combining on October 30th our Annual Meeting, Program and Reception with the observance of the 60th Anniversary of CONGO. Our theme was CIVIL SOCIETY AT A DEFINING MOMENT: What NGOs and Governments Must Do To - Reduce violence in the world and control arms, Eliminate weapons of mass destruction and Prevent the stationing of weapons in outer space. This also highlighted the launching of DEWs, Deweaponization and Civil Society that aims at engaging the global civil society more actively in preventing, curbing and dealing with the aftermath of recurring intra-state violence. We are grateful to CONGO President Liberato C. Bautista for bringing greetings at our Annual Meeting and for speaking at the Reception, as well as for the participation of representatives of other CONGO Committees.

We cooperated with a number of other NGOs and with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in a full program of fora and discussions this fall: September 16 in observance of International Peace Day, a screening of "Xavante Strategy" by Jose Belisario Franca of Brazil (with Peace Action); October 8, "Briefing on Uranium Weapons" (organized by International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons); October 10, "A Fissile Materials (Cut-off) Treaty" (presented by International Panel on Fissile Materials); October 24, "Seizing the Moment: A One-Day Consultation on Breakthrough Measures to Build East West Consensus on Weapons of Mass Destruction and Disarmament" that began with a keynote address by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (sponsored by the East West Institute).

In addition we published and distributed Numbers 2 and 3 of volume 31 of DISARMAMENT TIMES, held our regular second Tuesday Committee Meetings, a number of subcommittee meetings and participated in preliminary meetings relating to the upcoming 2009 DPI/NGO Conference September 9-11 to be hosted in Mexico with the general theme of disarmament and international security. We continue to participate as the substantive CONGO Committee with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee and the NGO Relations Section of the UN Department of Public Information in the new initiative, "From Disarmament to Deweaponization: Civil Society in Action (DEWs).

Respectfully submitted,
Jim L. Nelson and Vernon C. Nichols, Co-Presidents

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