



**The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in
Consultative Relationship with the United Nations
(CoNGO)**

***Civil Society Development Forum 2009
Geneva Component***

2-4 July 2009, Geneva, Switzerland

Background and Concept Note

1. The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) begins its annual substantive session – which alternates between Geneva and New York – with a High-Level Segment (HLS). During the HLS, an Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) will be held to assess the progress made in the implementation of the internationally-agreed development goals, notably the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
2. Every other year (2008, 2010....) the HLS also includes a Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) which examines the effectiveness of international cooperation mechanisms and the sharing of responsibilities in international development financing and development cooperation. There is thus no DCF in 2009.
3. It is now regular CoNGO practice to organize a Civil Society Development Forum (CSDF) immediately before the ECOSOC HLS. This Forum is to provide an opportunity for CoNGO members and the broad civil society community to debate the issues being dealt with by the immediately-following HLS. It is to formulate input to the HLS and AMR decision-making and output processes.
4. The HLS and AMR focus each year on a different subject of the MDGs. The overall theme in 2009 is “*Implementing the internationally-agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health*”. CSDF 2009 will accordingly debate on this theme, thus bringing civil society experience and positions to the intergovernmental arena.

5. The 2009 ECOSOC HLS and AMR are scheduled from 6 to 9 July 2009 in Geneva. CSDF 2009 will take place on 2, 3, and 4 July 2009. CoNGO established an International Steering Committee (ISC) to prepare for this event. The ISC is comprised of CoNGO Officers, persons drawn from the leadership of the CoNGO Substantive Committees and CoNGO members in the three UN centres (Geneva, New York, Vienna), CoNGO's International Secretariat, and a representative from the Geneva NGO Forum for Health.
6. CSDF 2009 has the following general theme: ***“Threats to the Health and Sustainable Development of Nations (Civil Society Proposals on Global Public Health in the Context of the Global Economic Crisis)***. Keynote themes will include ***“The Social Determinants of Health”***, ***“Impacts of the Global Economic Crisis on Health”***, and ***“Threats to the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, Especially Those Relating to Global Public Health***. There will be plenary sessions, simultaneous workshops to deal with six substantive themes, and drafting sessions for the CSDF 2009 – Geneva Component Outcome Document.
7. The six substantive themes to be dealt with in workshops are: a) Responding to health inequities at local and international levels; b) Dealing with the shortage of health care workers; c) Addressing the increase in non-communicable/chronic disease; d) Financing global access to health, including health technologies; e) Ensuring the right to health for women throughout the life-cycle; and f) Promoting prevention and treatment of HIV-AIDS.
8. Updated information on CSDF 2009 will be found on CoNGO's website (www.ngocongo.org) and in CoNGO's E-Update. This includes registration and logistics information. The CoNGO International Secretariat offices in Geneva, New York and Vienna will be available for supplementary information.
9. One of CoNGO's concerns is precisely that all its three centres participate. Following the CSDF – 2009 Geneva Component (2, 3, 4 July 2009), there will therefore be a New York CSDF Follow-Up Component in October; and a Vienna CSDF Briefing in November 2009.
10. All CoNGO members are strongly encouraged to seek support and resources to participate in CSDF 2009 and thereby to help shape international decision-making with regard to global public health.

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