



Dear Colleagues,

As the Millennium+5 Summit, to be held in September 2005 draws nearer, Family Care International will prepare and distribute periodic E-Bulletins to ensure that organizations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights around the world are kept up to date on the preparations leading up to the Summit and opportunities for advocacy.

Making Progress

Over the past few months, there has been much activity at the United Nations and at meetings around the world as governments and NGOs prepare for the Millennium+5 Summit. While the sexual and reproductive rights community is facing challenges as we advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights within this context, we are also making progress in ensuring that these issues are prioritized by governments. Some positive outcomes:

- A [political declaration](#) adopted by the **Commission on the Status of Women**. The declaration reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Beijing+5 Outcome Document, emphasizes that gender equality and women's empowerment is essential for achieving the MDGs, and calls for the inclusion of a gender perspective throughout the Millennium+5 process.
- A **resolution** adopted by the **UN Commission on Population and Development** on the contribution of the ICPD towards the achievement of the MDGs. The resolution emphasizes "the importance of integrating the goal of universal access to reproductive health by 2015 set at the International Conference on Population and Development into strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration."
- The [Delhi Declaration](#) issued by health ministers and others attending the launch of the World Health Organization's 2005 World Health Report on Maternal and Child Health. The Delhi Declaration affirms that "universal access to sexual and reproductive health is essential to meeting MDG 5 and will make significant contributions toward MDG 4" and calls for "the adoption of a target for MDG 5 relating to universal access to sexual and reproductive health with appropriate indicators."
- The **Stockholm Call to Action: Investing in Reproductive Health and Rights as a Development Priority** issued by government representatives from 20 countries, which emphasizes the centrality of reproductive health and rights towards achieving the MDGs.
- The **report of the Secretary General**, [In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All](#), notes that access to sexual and reproductive health information and services is essential for gender equality and women's empowerment and that health systems should be strengthened to be able to provide universal access to basic health services, including services to support reproductive health.

In addition, at informal consultations and discussions about the outcome of the Millennium+5 Summit many governments have emphasized the importance of ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services and implementing fully the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

We need to continue our advocacy at the national, regional and international levels over the coming months to build upon this momentum and ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights remain a priority.

GA Resolution on Modalities for the Millennium+5 Summit

On April 15, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (UN Doc. No. A/RES/59/291) on preparations for September's Millennium+5 Summit. The resolution, entitled "Preparation for and organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly," expands upon prior General Assembly resolutions on the modalities for the Summit and clarifies the proceedings for the "informal interactive hearings" with civil society.

The resolution can be found online at: <http://www.un-ngls.org/N0449459.pdf>

Civil Society Hearings

Civil Society Hearings in preparation for the Millennium+5 Summit will be held from **June 23-24, 2005**. The hearings will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Jean Ping, Permanent Representative of Gabon.

The hearings will involve a brief opening plenary, followed by four sequential interactive sessions (two per day), and a short closing plenary. The themes for the four interactive sessions will mirror the clusters identified in the Secretary-General's report: *Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom to Live in Dignity, and the Imperative for Collective Action*. The GA President will invite approximately 200 representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector to participate in each interactive session, as well as representatives of UN member states and permanent observers and UN agencies.

The President of the General Assembly has been working with the United Nations NGO Liaison Service to identify representative NGOs to participate in a consultative Task Force to help determine the exact modalities of the hearings and the criteria for selecting representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations and private sector to participate in the hearings. The Task Force members are:

- Ms. Gemma Adaba (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions)
- Ms. Wahu Kaara (Global Call to Action Against Poverty)
- Ms. Ruth Kahurananga (The Global Movement for Children)
- Mr. Vandy Kanyako (Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict)
- Ms. Alejandra Scampini (Global Call to Action Against Poverty)
- Mr. Ed Schenkenberg (International Council of Voluntary Agencies)
- Mr. Bill Stibravy (International Chamber of Commerce)
- Ms. Pera Wells (Millennium+5 NGO Network / World Federation of United Nations Associations)
- Ms. Joanna Weschler (NGO Human Rights Committee)
- Ms. June Zeitlin (Women's Environment & Development Organization)

The GA President's Task Force also includes representatives, as ex officio members, from UNDP, the General Assembly Secretariat, the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General and the NGO Liaison Service. The task force is working to ensure that the hearings as interactive and effective as possible, that there is maximum NGO participation and to develop a selection process for participation that is transparent, equitable and fair.

PARTICIPATION

Approximately 200 representatives from NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector will be invited to participate in the hearings. Some of these participants will be invited to make short presentations at the beginning of each session, while all invited participants will have the opportunity to make interventions. Funding may be made available to those participants from the global South. The participants will be selected based on their expertise on issues covered in one or more of the four clusters and gender, geographical and sectoral balance, with attention paid to racial, ethnic, intergenerational and religious diversity. A special effort will be made to ensure significant participation of people from the Global South, and in particular, of indigenous peoples and those belonging to under-represented groups or regions.

NGOs, civil society organizations and private sector groups are being asked to **nominate representatives to participate in the hearings** as speakers and active participants. The nomination form is available on the website of the UN NGO Liaison office at: <http://www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearings.htm>. **The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, May 24, 2005.**

NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC or DPI will be able to observe the hearings; however, observers will not be able to make interventions. The accreditation form for observers is not yet available; however, **the deadline for registration will be Friday June 3, 2005.**

In addition, room may be made available for side events, NGO caucuses, and other activities.

It is important to ensure that the participants in the hearings do talk about the contribution of sexual and reproductive health and rights towards achieving the MDGs and that this is duly noted in the summary of the hearings, which will be prepared by the President of the General Assembly. This summary will be considered during the preparatory process for the Millennium+5 Summit.

Briefing Cards: Millennium Development Goals & Sexual and Reproductive Health

FCI is pleased to announce the release of our briefing cards on the Millennium Development Goals and sexual and reproductive health. These briefing cards are intended to raise awareness among governments, NGOs and others of the importance of sexual and reproductive health for development and the contribution of sexual and reproductive health toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Both before and after the Summit, they can be used in advocacy efforts at the community, national, regional and international levels to ensure that the relationship between sexual and reproductive health and the MDGs is fully understood and integrated in strategies to achieve the goals, including in poverty reduction strategy papers and development plans.

The briefing cards are available for download online as PDF files at: <http://www.familycareintl.org/pubs/PDF/SRH13E.pdf>. The briefing cards are currently available in English and will be available in Spanish and French by mid-June.

To order hard copies of the briefing cards, email fcipubs@fcimail.org to specify how many you can use and where they should be sent.

Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities

High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, June 2, 2005 **UN Headquarters, New York**

The meeting is an interim technical review of the 2005 goals set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, which was adopted during the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS on 27 June 2001. The discussions during the meeting will be considered throughout the preparatory process for the Millennium+5 Summit. Advocacy is needed to ensure that governments participating in the meeting discuss the need for better policy and program linkages between sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, June 27-28, 2005 **UN Headquarters, New York**

The meeting will examine countries' progress in implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, which was held in March 2002. The recommendations emerging from the dialogue will be considered throughout the preparatory process for the Millennium+5 Summit.

For more information, visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd>.

High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council, June 29 - July 1, 2005 **UN Headquarters, New York**

The theme of the 2005 high-level segment of ECOSOC *"Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities."* The outcome of the high-level segment will be a political declaration. Both the high-level segment and the coordination segment of ECOSOC will contribute to preparations for the Millennium+5 Summit. Advocacy is needed to ensure that the political declaration emphasizes the importance of implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and that universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services is recognized as being necessary to achieve the MDGs, particularly for the goals on gender equality and maternal health.

Calendar of Events

May

16-25	World Health Assembly (Geneva)
23-24	EU Development Ministers (Luxembourg)
31- 3 June	Global Health Council annual conference on health systems (Washington, DC, USA)

June

1-3	Africa Economic Summit, Cape Town, South Africa
2	High-level meeting to review the progress on the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.
6	G8 Parliamentarians Conference (Scotland)
8-11	Preparatory NGO Conference on the High-Level Plenary Meeting (Copenhagen, Denmark)
12-16	Second South Summit, G77 (Doha, Qatar)
21-22	Asian Health Ministers Meeting on MDGs (Tokyo, Japan)
23-24	Civil Society Hearings toward the High-Level Plenary (New York, USA)
27-28	High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development (New York, USA)

29- 1 High-level ECOSOC Segment: Theme "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration" (New York, USA)

July

2-27 Substantive ECOSOC Segment (New York, USA)
6-8 G-8 Summit (Scotland)

September

7-9 Meeting of Speakers of Parliament (New York, USA)
7-9 DPI-NGO Meeting (New York, USA)
14-16 Millennium+5 Summit (New York, USA)