

Upcoming Global Events

WORLD CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM, 14-19 JULY 2002 (GENEVA)

The World Civil Society Forum, which aims to strengthen the role of civil society in international cooperation, will address issues including health, human rights, humanitarian rights, education, the environment, peace, security, and information technology, and will allow UN agencies and international organizations to present their activities. The Forum, which intends to gather from 1,000 to 1,500 organizations from all over the world (including NGOs, indigenous peoples, and research centres, etc.), will focus on four objectives:

- Promoting cooperation among civil society organizations from different geographical regions and diverse domains of activity, especially those from developing countries and those representing indigenous peoples.
- Facilitating cooperation between organizations of civil society and the United Nations system, including its specialized agencies and other international organizations.
- Creating a space for dialogue on the relations between the different stakeholders on the international scene, such as civil society and international organizations, governments and the private sector.
- Considering the constitution of a permanent forum that would reinforce cooperation between global civil society and international organizations.

The Forum will include information and discussion sessions, workshops and thematic working groups. Training sessions will be provided before (8-12 July) and during the Forum on topics such as access to Internet, training for journalists, management of development projects, and human rights, among others. A Youth Forum, which aims to strengthen youth participation in international cooperation and notably with the United Nations, will take place on 13 July. It will be preceded by three days of workshops and training on the role of youth in the promotion of human rights, sustainable development and peace.

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