



# CARMEngo

BULLETIN OF THE CARMELITE NGO

WINTER 2009 - VOL 2, NUMBER 1

*The development we speak of here cannot be restricted to economic growth alone. To be authentic, it must be well rounded; it must foster the development of each person and of the whole person.*

*Paul VI  
Populorum Progressio n. 14*



**Doha Civil Society Forum  
International Conference on Financing for Development  
Doha, Qatar - November 2008**

## **Investing in People-Centered Development: But Who Are Those People?**

If anything, the location was perfect for an international conference on financing for development. The host country of Qatar, located on a peninsula jutting out into the Persian Gulf, shows all the signs of booming economic success. The downtown sky is filled with cranes, magnificent glass structures with very creative designs, and streets filled with SUVs and luxury cars.

Look behind that, into the working neighborhoods, and you will find young people from all the Third World nations living in tight, dilapidated neighborhoods. Ride in any taxi, go into any restaurant or hotel, look at any building being constructed and you will find only foreigners. The Qataris have the money but the work of the Nepalese, the Indians, the Filipinos and guest workers from other countries in less than ideal conditions are the ones allowing them to enjoy it— a metaphor for the world situation right outside the gate of the conference.

In the declaration hammered out during a three day meeting prior to

*continued on page 4*

## The Voice of the Poor Heard Through Us

One of the offices of Franciscans International, the NGO of the Franciscan Family is located in Geneva, CH. From here the United Nations is kept aware of Franciscan interest in various issues: environment, human rights, human trafficking, poverty, and food.

Members of the Franciscan Family, like those of the Carmelite Family, are present throughout the world. They too live side by side with the most vulnerable, bringing assistance, to the victims of injustice. Both Orders are witnesses to the daily violation of basic human rights and dignity religious and lay thus accumulate a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience in all these countries. They are very familiar with the situations. They are very dialogue with these people, they have ideas about what should be done in order to improve their lives. This knowledge, if shared with the right people, can be a powerful tool for change.



In order to have some influence on the decision makers who can contribute to making change happen in a system which leaves so many people marginalized, the Franciscan Family and the Carmelite Family, like many other religious congregations, decided to have their interests represented at UN level – the interests of the most vulnerable and the poor. This is how the Carmelite NGO came to being.

Like Franciscans International, we can – should – bring the voice of the poor to the UN. The poor constitute the largest group of victims of human rights abuses worldwide. We are bringing this firsthand, grassroots knowledge and expertise to the international level by incorporating their information, concerns and recommendations into substantive reports, statements and position papers. We can also invite them to speak directly in front of the international community, before the Human Rights Council, for example. If we want to raise awareness about the issues that we hold close to our heart and if we want to bring change, we need the involvement of those who have this local expertise. The Carmelite involvement, your involvement, is critical to improve the situation of those who are poor and to make a better world.

Prior to attending the Franciscan meeting, I participated in the Civil Society Development Forum, organized by the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), on October 27 – 28, 2008 also in Geneva.

*Arie Kuil, O. Carm.*

*European Union Region Representative*

Website for Franciscans International: [franciscansinternational.org](http://franciscansinternational.org)

---

CarmeNGO is published four times each year and is distributed to those interested in the mission of the NGO. For more information or to add your name and address to our mailing list, please visit our website ([carmelitengo.org](http://carmelitengo.org)) or write to us by email ([jremson@carmelitengo.org](mailto:jremson@carmelitengo.org)) or by regular post at 1725 General Taylor Street; New Orleans, LA 70115; USA)

### ECOSOC INFORMATION

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs – NGO Section:  
[un.org/esa/coordination/ngo](http://un.org/esa/coordination/ngo)

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html>

Gender Equality: Trafficking in Human Misery

<http://www.unfpa.org/gender/violence1.htm>

The Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking:

<http://www.unfoundation.org/donate/ungift.html>

Toolkit to Combat Trafficking of Persons:

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT\\_Toolkit08\\_English.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT_Toolkit08_English.pdf)

References to Training Programs and Other Resources:

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Toolkit-files/08-58296\\_tool\\_2-14.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Toolkit-files/08-58296_tool_2-14.pdf)

## What Is ECOSOC and Why Is It Important For Us

The first avenue by which non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participate in formal United Nations deliberations is through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Forty-one NGOs were granted Consultative Status by the Council in 1946. Today the number has increased to 3,172 worldwide. Since the inception of the Carmelite NGO, the goal has been for it to be an NGO with ECOSOC status.

To be eligible for Consultative Status, an NGO must have been in existence for at least two years, must have an established headquarters, a democratically adopted constitution, authority to speak for its members, a representative structure, appropriate mechanisms of accountability and democratic and transparent decision-making processes. The basic resources of the organization must be derived in the main part from contributions of the affiliates, other components or from individual members.

There are three categories of status:

- ♦ General Consultative Status is reserved for large international NGOs whose area of work covers most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies.
- ♦ Special Consultative Status is granted to NGOs, which have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with only a few of the fields of activity covered by the ECOSOC. These NGOs tend to be smaller.
- ♦ Roster Status applies to NGOs that have a narrow and/or technical focus.

It is important for the Carmelite NGO to have ECOSOC status because it gives us a strong voice at the United Nations—the only global forum open to all peoples to work for consensus standards for a more just, peaceful, and humane world. A strong voice is especially important in working with ECOSOC's subsidiary organs on issues that are important to us; such as climate change, trafficking of persons, illegal trafficking of human organs, financing for development and freedom of religion and belief. It is through these subsidiary organs that substantive change can happen and, by our participation we will have a voice in bringing about substantive change for the common good.

Special Consultative Status permits us to attend meetings of the commissions and other subsidiary organs of the Council. We have a special interest in attending those meetings that are important to our ministries. Special Consultative Status also allows us to submit statements in writing to the appropriate committees and also to speak to the Council and/or its subsidiary organs on subjects in our field of competence.

There are 54 nations (member states) that are members of ECOSOC. Of the 54 member states, 19 form the Committee that recommend applications for ECOSOC to the full Council. On January 22, 2009 the Committee unanimously recommended our Carmelite NGO for Special Consultative Status to ECOSOC. The full Council is expected to approve the recommendations at their July 2009 meeting.

*Jane Remson, O. Carm.*

*Main Representative of the Carmelite NGO*

For more information go to: [un.org/esa/coordination/ngo](http://un.org/esa/coordination/ngo)

## Water: A Precious Resource



### Water

With every drink we take, the way we use our precious resource of water impacts our region and the world. We hope this information encourages you to become more aware of the blessings and responsibilities of caring for the environment.



### A Scarce Resource

Less than 1% of the world's surface or below ground freshwater is accessible. In one-third of the world, water consumption outstrips supply, especially in West Asia where consumption exceeds 10% of renewable freshwater resources.



### Essential for Food

While daily drinking water needs of a person average one gallon, between 500 and 1,300 gallons of water are needed to produce one person's daily food requirements. A 10% improvement in efficiency of irrigation could double the drinking water supply for the poor.



*continued from page 1*

the International Conference, more than 250 representatives of civil society from over 50 countries called for a change in the strategies adopted by developed countries and world organizations for effective global development, poverty eradication, protection of human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. William J. Harry, O. Carm., participated in the conference on behalf of the Carmelite NGO.

In a letter to Miguel d'Escoto, the President of the General Assembly and Maryknoll priest, a coalition of NGOs pushed for a new United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference and a strong follow-up Financing for Development process centered in the United Nations. The letter expressed concern about the failure of the Northern Governments and the appointed institutions to provide protection against the current economic crisis. While the group sees the expansion of the so-called G-7 to the G-20 (gatherings comprising representatives of seven countries which was later expanded to include 20 of "the more powerful" countries) as a step in the right direction, it expressed concern that 172 other governments and global civil society continue to be absent from discussions.

The group continually called for "creative thinking" and "collective multilateral action" in this "transformative moment." At the same time, it voiced concern that the current economic crisis will threaten the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) as well as the stability of the world's economies. Prior to the recent economic collapse, there was frustration that few governments had reached their promised funding from the MDGs.

The United Nations conference took place in the unique Hotel Doha Sheraton. Plenary meetings included addresses by Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General, Fr. D'Escoto, and the Director-General of the World Trade Organization and over 30 Heads of State or Government, ministers and heads of delegations. The remainder of the conference was a series of round table discussions and small meetings between groups. The group then voted on the Conference's outcome document.

The government of Qatar provided funding for NGOs from Third World countries to attend, including flights, meals, and accommodations. The UN Department of Public Information provided live coverage of the conference over the internet.

*Document from Civil Society for the Conference: link on [carmelitengo.org](http://carmelitengo.org)*

*Letter from Doha NGO Group of Financing for Development: link on [carmelitengo.org](http://carmelitengo.org)*

*NGO Committee for Financing for Development - Member Organizations*  
<http://www.ngosonffd.org/members.htm>

*Website of the 2008 International Conference on Financing for Development:*  
*Outcome Document for the Conference: <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/630/55/PDF/N0863055.pdf?OpenElement>*

#### Pictures:

Front Page: View of the hall during the first session of the International Conference on Financing in Doha, Qatar.

Back Page: William J. Harry, O. Carm., representing the Carmelite NGO in the first session of the Doha conference.

## Carmelite NGO Coordinating Team

Jane Remson, O. Carm.  
Main Representative

Joseph Chalmers, O. Carm.  
Carmelite General Council

Míceál O'Neill, O. Carm.  
Spirituality Reflection Team

Hariawan Adji, O. Carm.  
Asian Region

Helen Aricaya Ojario, O. Carm.  
North American Region

Norbert Fokisa, O. Carm.  
African Region

Anna Marie Reverand, O. Carm.  
Central America and the  
Caribbean Region

Arie Kuil, O. Carm.  
European Union Region

Gilbert Sabado, O. Carm.  
International Commission for  
Justice, Peace & the Integrity of  
Creation

William J. Harry, O. Carm.  
Communications

### Committees

North America Climate Change  
Blaise Fernando, O. Carm.

Child Soldiers  
Chelo Dhebbi, O. Carm.

Spirituality Reflection Team  
Míceál O'Neill, O. Carm.  
Barbara Breaud, O. Carm.  
Camille Anne Campbell, O. Carm.  
Alexander Vella, O. Carm.  
Craig Morrison, O. Carm.  
Dionysius Kosasih, O. Carm.  
Bartholomew de Rouen, O. Carm.  
Kees Waaijman, O. Carm.  
Christopher O'Donnell, O. Carm.

### Carmelite NGO Main Office:

1725 General Taylor Street  
New Orleans, LA 70115 USA  
Tel: (+01) 504 458-3029  
[jremson@carmelitengo.org](mailto:jremson@carmelitengo.org)

### New York Office:

Tel: (+01) 646 416-4690  
[hojario@carmelitengo.org](mailto:hojario@carmelitengo.org)  
[carmelitengo.org](http://carmelitengo.org)