

KEY INFORMATION on the Helsinki Conference contained in this newsletter – still opportunities to participate!

NEWS ON THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

- A panel of different stakeholders will begin the Helsinki Conference with a discussion on how the international community can best be re-energised and mobilised towards improved global problem-solving. The Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson will speak on the value-added of multistakeholder cooperation. Maria Livanos Cattau, Martin Khor, Irene Khan, Prince El Hassan bin Talal and Strobe Talbott will continue the discussion, which offers the opportunity for feedback to the Helsinki Process and its follow-up.
- ENO Global Virtual School for Environmental Awareness, will introduce their work during the roundtable on the environment. There will be a possibility to build a real-time link between the Helsinki Conference session and a school in Africa.

HELSINKI CONFERENCE SIDE-EVENTS

- Finnish NGOs and Citizens' Global Platform host several side-events in Helsinki from 2nd to 12th September 2005. More information is available via cgp@ykliitto.fi
- A Helsinki Youth Conference takes place 5th – 6th September 2005 in Helsinki. Youth participants have been invited to give a key address at one key dialogue and one roundtable at the Helsinki Conference. The active participation of youth links to the Helsinki Process recommendations that youth should be introduced to and a part of multistakeholder decision-making.
- UniPID University Partnership Network for International Development, which aims to implement the concept of institutional partnership approved at the Johannesburg Summit, hosts a seminar on 9th September at Joensuu.

PARTICIPATING THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE

- Some Helsinki Conference sessions will be broadcasted live on the internet. More information on this will be available in mid-August.
- Helsinki Conference sessions will be reported on in a Helsinki Conference Magazine to be published on Thursday and Friday and available also on the internet.

NEWS OF THE HELSINKI PROCESS

- A Senior Officials Meeting was held at the invitation of the Finland and Tanzania in June with all “Friends of the Helsinki Process” governments represented. These governments are Algeria, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Hungary, India, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. The group discussed the Helsinki Process proposals and potential follow-up that the governments could undertake. The intention is that other interested governments will be welcomed to join these efforts after the Helsinki Conference. Several governments have expressed their interest and are planning ministerial participation at the Conference.
- The Helsinki Group launched its report on June 29th at Chatham House in London. The participants at the launch emphasised that although the Process has been challenging, there is genuine commitment to participate in the multi-stakeholder cooperation. Cooperation based on participatory action and dialogue is needed in order to successfully address major political, security-related, social, economic, financial and environmental problems.
- Individual contributions that Helsinki Group members submitted in addition to the report, to widen their thinking and to support the work done, are available on the internet www.helsinki.fi/HelsinkiGroup/articles.asp
- The Helsinki Process was presented and discussed at the 5th African Union Summit held in Libya in the beginning of July. The African Union Summit was attended by both the Co-Chair of the Helsinki Process, Minister for Foreign Affairs Jakaya Kikwete and the Deputy Co-Chair, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdulkader Shareef, of Tanzania. This week the Tanzanian secretariat is presenting the Process to the Parliament of Tanzania.