



**A shared ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and
The Lutheran World Federation**

LOWC Newsletter – May 2011

An occasional, informal bulletin of news, events and resources for LOWC partners.

News

UN Least Developed Countries conference

The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) is taking place 9-13 May, 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. Learn more

<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/home>

UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19)

The Policy Session of the fourth implementation cycle, CSD-19 is taking place from 2-13 May 2011 in New York. It is focusing on the following thematic issues: Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management (Hazardous & Solid Waste), Mining, and 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns.

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19.shtml

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The tenth session of the Permanent Forum will be held from 16-27 May, 2011 also in New York. 2011 is a review year hence there is no theme. Follow up on recommendations and Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are among the items to be discussed. <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/index.html>

2011 High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS

The United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS will be held from June 8-10 2011. The Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon has issued a report “***Uniting for Universal Access, towards zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and Zero AIDS related Deaths.***” UNAIDS <http://www.unaids.org/en/> has also issued the UNAIDS strategy 2011–2015. Entitled “***Getting to Zero***”, the strategy aims to advance global progress in achieving country set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to halt and reverse the spread of HIV and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development goals by 2015.

Civil society hearings were held on April 8, 2011. The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance supported faith based plenary speakers, convened two events -- a multi-faith prayer service and evening debriefing to strategize and plan for the June High-level Meeting. LOWC has been acting as a "host base" for EAA here in New York. Read the [EAA Talking Points for Religious Leaders and Faith-based Organizations](http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hivaids/accountability/ungass/) and much more <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hivaids/accountability/ungass/>

UN Women

As in previous years, LOWC hosted delegates from The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to the recent session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 55) from February 22 to March 4, 2011. The Rev. Dr. Elaine Neuenfeldt, LWF secretary for Women in Church and Society was in attendance and delivered a statement on behalf of Ecumenical Women at a UN Member States expert panel discussion on science and technology <http://capwiz.com/elca/issues/alert/?alertid=33569501&type=CU>
<http://www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/faith-groups-support-gender-equality.html>

Preparations have begun for the CSW 56 that will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from Monday, 27 February to Friday, 9 March 2012. The **Priority theme** will be “***The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges***” and the **Review theme** will be “***Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women***” (set by the [agreed conclusions](#) from the fifty-second session).

Meanwhile UN Women’s first strategic plan for 2011-2013 draft is now available. Read the elements here http://www.unwomen.org/eb_docs/2011/background-documents/elements-UNWomen-strategic-plan.pdf Consultations with Member States are going on and the draft text will be finalized by May 16 in order for the strategic plan to be translated into all UN languages and be ready for presentation at the June 2011 UN Women Executive Board meeting for its consideration.

UN High-level Meeting on Youth

2010-2011 was designated the International Year of Youth with the theme ***“Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”***. Many youth events have been taking place around the world. This coming July 25 and 26, the UN General Assembly will hold a high-level meeting on youth <http://social.un.org/youthyear/high-level-meeting.html> . LOWC is working with The LWF youth desk to have a Lutheran youth presence during this high level event. Stay informed and also read about the Youth and LWF strategy 2017 at <http://lwfyouth.org/>

2011, International Year for People of African Descent

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent (<http://www.un.org/en/events/iypad2011/>). Learn more about this year at: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Advocacy/Advocacy-Ministries/Lutheran-Office-for-World-Community.aspx>

Resources

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a new publication entitled ***“Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: taking action and generating evidence”***. This document aims to provide sufficient information for policy-makers and planners to develop data-driven and evidence-based programs for preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women. The publication is available full-text through the website (full report) http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241564007_eng.pdf

The UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has published a new report titled ***“Planning and Implementing an Essential Package of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services”***. This guidance document is to provide a framework for developing an essential Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) package. It focuses on two priority areas: 1) integrating family planning into maternal and newborn care services, and 2) integrating services for preventing and managing sexually transmitted infections/reproductive tract infections into primary healthcare services. Available here: http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2011/Essential_Package_Integration.pdf.

While policymakers are beginning to understand the important role played by the sound management of chemicals in economic and social development, it is also important to recognize the significant linkages between gender and chemicals. The UN Development Program paper ***“Chemicals and Gender”*** is part of the Gender Mainstreaming Guidance Series <http://www.undp.org/energyandenvironment/>. It describes the important linkages between socio-economic development, gender, and chemicals management and why the sound management of chemicals is so essential to gender.

The ***“World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development”***, from the World Bank, examines the changing nature of violence in the 21st century, and underlines the negative impact of repeated cycles of violence on a country’s or region’s

development prospects. Preventing violence and building peaceful states that respond to the aspirations of their citizens requires strong leadership and concerted national and international efforts. The report is based on new research, case studies and extensive consultations with leaders and development practitioners throughout the world. Download the full report

(http://wdr2011.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/Complete%202011%20WDR%20Conflict%2CSecurity%20and%20Development_0.pdf) or by chapter (<http://wdr2011.worldbank.org/fulltext>).

Two-thirds of developing countries are on track or close to meeting key targets for tackling extreme poverty and hunger. This year's ***“Global Monitoring Report 2011: Improving the Odds of Achieving the MDGs”***, also by the World Bank, delves into country performance and reveals a diverse, and often hopeful, picture. For example, among developing countries that are falling short on the Millennium Development Goals, half are close to becoming on-track. With improved policies and faster growth, these countries can still achieve the targets in 2015 or soon after. The full report, progress charts, and country information are available at www.worldbank.org/gmr2011.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released a new report titled, ***“Using Intellectual Property Rights to Stimulate Pharmaceutical Production in Developing Countries: A reference guide”***. This report is a reference guide that provides concise and practical information on ways to promote local pharmaceutical production and improve access to medicines through a variety of policy tools, focusing on the flexibilities provided under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), and the interfaces between intellectual property, investment, drugs regulation and procurement strategies. The guide has been prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat as part of its technical assistance activities in the area of intellectual property rights and the promotion of pharmaceutical production and supply capacities in developing countries. This guide is available at the UNCTAD website for download here: http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/diaepcb2009d19_en.pdf.