



UPDATE March 2007

CSW 51 UNANIMA International, with a delegation of 26 members, has a major NGO presence at the Commission on the Status of Women. Our delegation members have been working in caucuses to lobby for changes in language in the document which will be the outcome of this session – on the elimination of violence and discrimination against the girl child.



Translator Florence repeats a point made by Magnoudewa Pitekélabou (Bella) from Togo during the UNANIMA International side event on Violence Against Girls. Seated to her left are Renise Alcé and Roodnir Joseph, UI delegates from Haiti. To her right is delegate Covadonga Orejas, CCV, also from Togo. During the session the delegates had the opportunity to lobby with representatives of the missions of Togo and Haiti as well.

UNANIMA International delegates from Peru, Maria Soledad Cortez Santiago and Ana Maria Vilca Mamani, snjm, prepare for their session on “Building homes without violence” which promotes equality between women and men and non-violence in the home.



Board Member SSA, Marie Zarowny and UI volunteer Ana Martinez de Luco along with Diana Ramos, UI administrative assistant and Susan Maloney,snjm, member of delegation to CSW, worked very hard to ensure the delegates were able to come and also were well taken care of while in New York. Kudos to all!!!

Return from New Zealand and Australia 26 February 2007, Catherine Ferguson, Coordinator, returned from a three week trip. During that time, the Louise Cleary, Anne Phibbs, and Maree Marsh, all Brigidines, set up the opportunity for her to talk about the work of UNANIMA International especially as it relates to trafficking. Catherine made three formal presentations – one in Wellington, New Zealand and the others in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia. The networking on the issue of trafficking continues to be made stronger.



Catherine speaks to a group in Sydney. Thanks to Pauline Coll, RGS, for her work in setting this up.

Non-governmental Organizations briefed on the Work of the General Assembly

Although NGOs regularly work with the Economic and Social Council, we have less opportunity to be involved with the General Assembly, On 21 February 2007 at a briefing we were told the role of the civil society relative to the General Assembly, about the consequences for NGOS during the remodeling of the UN.

Next year a conference will be held on Financing for Development which will have reserved seating for NGOs to discuss good practices in this area. A Senior Advisor assured us that our resource center would be fully operational in a temporary space from 2008 and 2014 while the renovation project takes place.

The Commission on Social Development: The 45th Session of the UN Commission on Social Development at the UN was held 8 -16 February 2007. The day before this event, a Civil Society Forum took place on 7 February. At this meeting, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. José Antonio Ocampo discussed the theme of the event *Full Employment and Decent Work for All*. He told the group that reducing unemployment and working against poverty through the creation of decent and productive jobs is absolutely essential. He believes that this can be done by strengthening the partnerships between the United Nations, governments, the private sector, civil society and academia. He stated that 9 out of 10 countries are facing the global pandemic of inequality. Important presentations were also given on the importance of the informal economy and the need for working with people living in poverty as entrepreneurs. (See written statements of UNANIMA International on our website: www.unanima-international.org)



UNANIMA International welcomes the new Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon. The former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea plans to build on Kofi Anan's legacy and serve for the next 5 years. Secretary-General Ban served in his country's mission to the UN, and served as Chef de Cabinet to the then General Assembly President Han Seung-Soo of the Republic of Korea.