

United Nations  Nations Unies

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REFERENCE:

16 August 2005

Dear Mr. Otu,

On behalf of Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, who is currently travelling on official business, I have the pleasure to invite you to address the Fifty-eighth Annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI). The Conference, *Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal*, will be held from 7 to 9 September 2005 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The DPI/NGO Conference is the premier NGO event of the year at the United Nations. It is expected to attract more than 2,000 NGO and civil society representatives from around the world. The President of the Fifty-ninth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, will open the Conference on 7 September 2005 at 10 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan will address the closing session on 9 September 2005.

The Conference will provide a platform where a range of civil society representatives will present their views on the proposals in the Secretary-General's report *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All*, which will be addressed at the 2005 World Summit the following week.

On Friday morning, 9 September 2005, during the plenary session *A Dialogue: The Future of the United Nations*, Mark Malloch Brown, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Secretary-General, will discuss the Secretary-General's proposals to strengthen the United Nations. Three roundtables, featuring representatives of the United Nations, civil society, government and the private sector, will then convene to discuss the proposals as they relate to three themes: collective security, poverty eradication, and the relationship between the United Nations and civil society.

Mr. Uwem Robert Otu  
President  
African Youth Movement  
Plot 4, Gonder Street  
Zone 1, Wuse - Abuja  
Nigeria

I should like to invite you to address our international audience of NGO representatives, and United Nations and government officials during the roundtable session, *Eradicating Poverty: Timelines and Lifelines*, on Friday, 9 September 2005, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

We would be very interested in hearing your views, as President of the African Youth Movement, on the role of youth in environmental conservation, water management and poverty eradication in Nigeria and other parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. Our international audience would also benefit from your perspective on the best practices and future challenges of achieving sustainable development in Nigeria, with particular emphasis on the work of NGOs in that process.

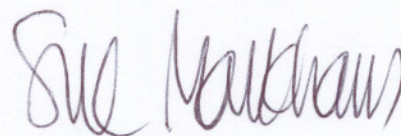
This year's DPI/NGO Conference will also address the challenge of forging effective partnerships for development; the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the priorities of civil society concerning collective security. It will provide a forum for dialogue relating to the 2005 World Summit. In addition, there will be a series of 30 workshops organized by NGOs that will feature the participation of representatives of civil society, the United Nations and governments.

I hope that you will accept this invitation and would be grateful if you could reply by 19 August 2005.

A draft Conference programme is attached for your reference. Any questions your office may have can be addressed to Mr. Paul Hoeffel, Chief, NGO Section in the Department of Public Information, telephone: (212) 963-8070; fax: (212) 963-6914; e-mail: hoeffel@un.org.

I look forward to your reply and your participation in this year's Conference.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Markham  
Officer-in-Charge  
Department of Public Information