

## United Nations Update

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### **United Nations Representatives**

*American Association for Health Education (AAHE)*

*Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)*

*International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE)*

International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) will be represented at UN Conference on Implementing Development Goals Set by World Leaders.

Drs. Flora K. Bloom and Kathleen Schmalz of the USA, have been selected to represent IUHPE at the 57th Annual United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference to be held at UN headquarters in New York City, 8 to 10 September 2004. Secretary General Kofi A. Annan will address an expected 2000 NGO delegates at the opening session in the General Assembly Hall. Entitled, "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action, the conference will focus on the roles of NGOs, civil society and governments in the implementation of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which were adopted by 189 UN Member States at their high-level millennium session in 2000.

Centered around the most critical problems causing tensions in the world today, the MDGs are designed to give people worldwide tools to care for themselves in healthy, sustainable environments. Specific MDG targets are set to: alleviate poverty; treat and prevent the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic; provide universal primary education and gender equality; reduce child and maternal mortality rates; lower by half the number of people who suffer from hunger or lack access to safe drinking water; empower women; and create a global partnership to foster good governance and economic development in the least developed countries, including opening world markets to their goods.

Conference delegates will attend five plenary sessions with governmental, UN Agency, NGO, civil society and local community leaders to assess the progress each sector has made on the goals. Emphasis will be placed on reviewing successful programs to be replicated, possible strategies for raising resources required for the implementation of the MDGs, and heightening public awareness of the Goals. After networking at interactive Midday Workshops, delegates will consider ways in which their NGO's can help meet the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015.

One of our objectives is to keep IUHPE members informed of the progress made on MDGs. By stressing the importance of these goals, health educators and health promotion specialists can raise public awareness at community and national levels to understand and actively support activities which foster MDG implementation.

Additional information on the conference program will be posted on <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection>. Inquiries can be addressed to the NGO Section of DPI at DPI/NGO Resource Centre, Room L-1B-31, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA.

The DPI/NGO Conference is organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information in partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee.