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Press Release

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DPI/NGO ORIENTATION COURSES TO BE HELD AT HEADQUARTERS, 20-21 FEBRUARY

Thirty-seven Organizations Granted Association Status with DPI

The annual DPI/NGO Orientation Course, for newly accredited representatives of non-governmental organizations, will take place at Headquarters from 20 to 21 February, during which senior officials will discuss current activities of the United Nations and provide an introduction to United Nations information resources.

The Department of Public Information (DPI) accepted, on 28 January, 37 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking association with it. Among them are: the American Cancer Society (USA), the Centro Unesco de Galicia (Spain), the Confederación Latinoamericana de Cooperativos de Ahorro y Crédito (Panama), Doctors Without Borders/Médecins sans frontières (USA/France), the Ford Foundation (USA), the Foreign Policy Association (Russia), the Foundation for Amity and National Solidarity (India) and the Russian-American University (Russia). A complete list is available from DPI.

The Department failed to approve the applications submitted by 13 organizations, and terminated the association of 14 others that were inactive.

The NGOs officially recognized by DPI cooperate with the United Nations to help build public understanding and support for United Nations programmes and goals. Over the past five years, the number of NGOs associated with DPI has nearly doubled, to more than 1,300.

To be granted association with DPI, NGOs must have national or international standing, support the Charter of the United Nations, have a broadly based membership and possess the resources necessary for effective outreach.

The two-day orientation programme will begin with a report on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, presented by Jean-Claude Faby, Director, New York Office, of the Conference secretariat. Key energy concerns will be addressed by Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Coordinator, New

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and Renewable Sources of Energy, Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation. Roma Stibravy, a consultant to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will give a demonstration of the innovative solar box cooker.

On Thursday afternoon, a special one-hour video programme will introduce NGOs to United Nations videos. This will be followed by a discussion of the "Historical perspectives and functional relationships between the United Nations and NGOs", given by Farouk Mawlawi, Chief, NGO and Institutional Relations Section, DPI; and by Farida Ayoub, Chief, NGO Unit, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

Addressing current activities of the United Nations in the political, economic and social fields, respectively, will be: Giandomenico Picco, Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Office of the Secretary-General; Sarbuland Khan, Chief, Joint Planning and Interorganizational Cooperation, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs; and Faiha Kamal, Assistant Director, Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services, Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services.

The NGO representatives will then be invited on a walking tour of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, given by its Director, Jakob van Heijst. A reception, by invitation, will follow in the UNCA Club, sponsored by the DPI/NGO Executive Committee.

Friday morning's programme will focus on the information resources of DPI. Topics to be addressed include: the facilities of the NGO Resource Centre, arrangements for group programmes, how to obtain United Nations photos and accessing United Nations information by computer.

The programme will conclude with an NGO perspective on how to be an effective NGO representative. Presentations will be made by Margery Cohen, League of Women Voters; Stephen Collett, Friends World Committee for Consultation; Amelia Dozzi, International Social Service; and Kathleen Soudant, World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations.

Further information on the annual DPI/NGO Orientation Course is available from the NGO Resource Centre, Room S-101, telephone (212) 963-7234. New representatives of NGOs who have not registered for the orientation should contact the Centre.

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