



Anil Naidoo, HE Pablo Solon, (Ambassador to Bolivia) Catherine Ferguson and Maude Barlow give a briefing to delegates prior to the historic vote on water and sanitation as human rights.

Resolution on the Human Right of Water and Sanitation

On Thursday, 22 July 2010, a historic UN General Assembly resolution titled "The Human Right to Water and Sanitation" was tabled by 31 co-sponsoring member states and the government of Bolivia. Jessica Chen, Mary Corbett, and Catherine Ferguson of UNANIMA International have been working very hard alongside the Blue Planet Project and Council of Canadians to generate awareness and support for this resolution.

Over the past two weeks, we have met with experts from over fifty permanent missions to the United Nations to learn more about their national position, to discuss the resolution text, and to offer our perspective on the issue. From the start, it was clear that the United States and Canada would not support the resolution, despite the fact that a majority of their citizens enjoy the right to water and sanitation already.

As the issue polarized member states into North and South groups, we realized that much work remained to be done by us and civil society at-large to draw attention to this divide; why should big countries with resources deny them to small countries without resources, especially if the right to water is inherent to the right to life?

We are continuing to pressure member states, particularly those in the European Union, to prepare for a vote. The resolution was considered by the full General Assembly on Wednesday, 28 July 2010. Although this is a non-binding resolution and is by no means comprehensive in its scope, UNANIMA believes that it will impact the

UNANIMA observes Bonn Climate Negotiations

Jessica Chen, Program Coordinator, will once again be representing UNANIMA International as an observer at the Bonn Climate Change Negotiations

during the week of 2-6 August 2010. Her daily reports will be posted on the UNANIMA website.

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priority level given to water in other processes (the ongoing UNFCCC negotiations, the MDG summit in September, the Commissions on Sustainable Development, and Rio +20). Only with the realization of the human right to water and sanitation can countries remember the millions who have died in its absence, as well as to begin facing and solving the water difficulties in our future.

The final vote on this resolution was held on 28 July 2010 and it passed with a large majority – 122 yes; 0 no; 42 abstain



Looking Back at July 2010

Catherine participated in a public witness against the demand for human trafficking in Portland, Oregon. This event occurred on 10 July 2010 as an action for change during the Provincial Chapter of the Sisters of the Holy Names and was organized in partnership with the County Commissioners. It was also co-sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters of Charity Vedruna. In addition to Catherine, who spoke about the international aspect of trafficking and demand, participants included the State Senator, the State Attorney General, and a victim of trafficking. Catherine's speech is available for download in the Human Trafficking section of our website.

Upcoming Events in July/August 2010

The last part of July was extremely busy at the United Nations. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) heard country reports from Australia and Papua New Guinea, which are countries where some of our members

Catherine offered a session to the CND International Justice and Peace Group in Montreal on 30 July. She will focus on the four pillars of the 2010 World Women's March: violence against women, economic autonomy of women, the commons and public goods, and peace and militarization.

The 63rd Annual UN Department of Public Information will be held in Melbourne Australia at the end of August. Louise Cleary will represent UNANIMA International at this meeting. We will hear more from her in September regarding the theme of the event: Global Health and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals.