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September 2008, under the banner of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The 61st annual conference of Non-Governmental Organizations organized by the UN Department of Public Information came to its end on the 5th of September at UNESCO Headquarters in **Paris**.

Some 1700 NGOs associated with the United Nations gathered for three days of debate during the 61st annual conference outside of the UN Headquarters in **New York** for the first time. Not coincidentally, **Paris** was the place where the Declaration of Human Rights was signed 60 years ago.

While the Conference was opened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, it was closed by the former French-Colombian hostage, Ingrid Bétancourt, both via video-conference. [More...](#)

In another significant event organized by the Colombian Government with UNESCO's support, a regional conference on "Media, Education and Culture in Human Rights" is taking place from 9 to 11 September 2008 in **Cartagena (Colombia)**.

Participants from **Latin America and the Caribbean**, including ministers and policy-makers, representatives of national human rights institutions, the media, civil society and various NGOs will discuss - in the Convention Centre "Julio César Turbay Ayala" in Cartagena de Indias - the link between the media and education and are expected to put emphasis on the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a commitment to dignity and justice for all. [More...](#)

Another highlight of September and within the framework of the universal struggle for human rights is the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education 2008. UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura awarded this year the Prize to the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (**South Africa**) for its outstanding efforts in building sustainable reconciliation through education and in addressing systemic injustice in **Africa**.

The Prize will be presented to the winner on 18 September 2008 at UNESCO Headquarters, within the framework of the celebration of the International Day of Peace. [More...](#)

Other events related to the UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences programme in September 2008:

- **1-2 September:** Summit of National Bioethics Committees, Paris, **France**
- **3-8 September:** 9th World Congress on Bioethics, Rijeka, **Croatia**
- **8-10 September:** Ministerial Roundtable on "Sport of Development and Peace", Zanzibar, **United Republic of Tanzania**
- **10-12 September:** International Conference on Bioethics, Bogota, **Colombia**
- **14-16 September:** International Congress on Sport for Development and Peace, Kingston, **Jamaica**

- **18-20 September:** 2nd General Conference of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism, Bologna, **Italy**
- **19-21 September:** Filosofia 2008, Modena, Carpi, Sassuolo, **Italy**
- **25-26 September:** ECOWAS Forum of Ministers of Social Development, Abidjan, **Côte d'Ivoire**
- **26-27 September:** Regional Congress of National Bioethics Committees, Kazan, **Russian Federation**
- **26 September-2 October:** 4th Busan TAFISA World Sport for all Games, Busan, **Republic of Korea**
- **29 September-7 October:** VIIIth International Congress of Ontology, San Sébastian, **Spain**

For more detailed information: www.unesco.org/shs/agenda.

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