Two International Conferences Meet in New York

Adam Braun

Follow this and additional works at: http://lawecommons.luc.edu/pilr

Part of the International Law Commons

Recommended Citation
Adam Braun, Two International Conferences Meet in New York, 10 Pub. Interest L. Rptr. 7 (2005).
Available at: http://lawecommons.luc.edu/pilr/vol10/iss3/6

This News is brought to you for free and open access by LAW eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Public Interest Law Reporter by an authorized administrator of LAW eCommons. For more information, please contact law-library@luc.edu.
Two International Conferences Meet in New York

By Adam Braun

World leaders gathered in New York in September to participate in two major international conferences. On September 14, the United Nations convened its annual World Summit, which met on occasion of the annual plenary meeting of the General Assembly. At the same time, former President William Jefferson Clinton convened the Clinton Global Initiative, a meeting designed to bring together leaders from the private and public sectors to address international issues.

One major development of the United Nations World Summit was the creation of a Peacebuilding Commission. Supporters of this commission note that its plans to create a standing monetary fund and support staff for peacekeeping missions and to expand the police keeping capacities of United Nations peacekeepers on the ground will separate peacekeeping operations from the institutional bureaucracy which currently plagues the United Nations.

A second concrete step taken during the summit was an agreement among participants designed to prevent the spread of genocide. Under the “Responsibility to Protect” principle, each government accepts responsibility to prevent the occurrence of future genocides. In the past many governments were unwilling to intervene in ongoing genocide due to reluctance to interfere with another state’s sovereignty. However, the principle agreed to at the Summit explicitly commits nations to intervene when civilian populations are subjected to genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

Other items on the Summit agenda did not see such substantive steps taken. For example, little action was taken in areas of international aid and development, fighting terrorism or in human rights. Before the Summit, some observers hoped that the Summit would produce a permanent council to replace the ineffective Commission on Human Rights.

However, participants were unable to agree on who should sit on such a council or even how such a council would be selected.

Similar inaction marked the fight against terrorism. While the body agreed to condemn terrorism “in all its forms” it was unable to reach an agreement on what constitutes “terrorism.”

Finally, in the area of international development, a proposal in which the world’s richest nations would dedicate 0.7 percent of its gross national income to development assistance was rejected.

While many in the international law community remain hopeful that the Peacebuilding Commission and “Responsibility to Protect” principle will lead to positive results, others are concerned that these projects will find a fate similar to the failed actions on development, terror and human rights. Captain Thaddeus A. Hoffmeister (USAR), a Judge Advocate General and current

The UN World Summit met with mixed results on such issues as terrorism, poverty, and international peacekeeping.
Legislative Director to a Democratic Congressman expressed such concerns. He said, "Because of the United Nations' multi-layered bureaucracy and unyielding size many of its well intentioned ideas and programs are never actually implemented."  

According to Hoffmeister, the size of the United Nations requires larger countries to take a leadership role for any substantial progress, and, to date, none have stepped forward. Without the leadership of a country such as the United States, “the United Nations has difficulty implementing large scale projects without the backing of a major player.”

Unlike other international conferences, participants in the Clinton Global Initiative were required to take concrete steps towards poverty alleviation, religious and ethnic reconciliation, climate change or enterprise and investment development. At the end of the three day meeting, pledges made by participants totaled approximately $1.25 billion. Starbucks pledged to work with the African Wildlife Foundation and Conservation International to dramatically increase the proportion of coffee beans which are grown through equitable partnerships and environmentally friendly methods.

3 United Nations, supra at note 1.  
4 Id.  
5 Id.  
7 Id.  
8 Id.

(AZT Patent, continued from page 5)  
9 GSK Loses Another Key Round, supra note 7.  
10 Id.  
12 GSK Loses Another Key Round, supra note 7.  