

**Second Inter-Union Symposium
for Staff Associations & Unions
of the
United Nations Common System
(ILO HQ, 21-23 September 2005)** **Staff of the United Nations –
Common System, Joint Action**

Upon invitation by the Staff Union of the International Labour Office (ILO) representatives of international civil servants from the United Nations family met in Geneva from 21 to 23 September 2005.

Considering the international discussion on reform and efficiency improvement of the United Nations Organisation that works towards « a more peaceful, prosperous and just world ³», participants noted that the worsening in employment and working conditions of international civil servants -who « bear responsibility for translating these ideals into reality ⁴» - henceforth represented an obstacle for the Organisation and its participating Agencies when pursuing their own objectives.

Representatives expressed their demand that the United Nations guarantee respect for fundamental rights at work, concerning notably social dialog, protection against the arbitrary, job security, freedom of association and respect for the role of the social partners.

They committed to subsequently work together with their representative bodies, and decided to that end to strengthen their capacities in terms of organizing, analysing and coordinating to intervene more efficiently with the main decision-makers – in particular Agency Heads and the International Civil Service Commission reporting to the UN General Assembly.

Participants were unanimous to say that this Second Symposium (first one was held in New York in December 2003) facilitated a considerable progress towards unity among all international civil servants, for the promotion of a true labour relations mechanisms at all levels of the United Nations system.

³ World Summit 2005, final document

⁴ International Civil Service Commission – Standards of conduct for the international civil service