At 6:15 am on Saturday, February 12, 2000, at the United Nations in New York, the negotiations of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) came to a close. After four sets of intense two-week meetings spanning two years, delegates, many of whom have been involved in the intergovernmental forest policy negotiations process since prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, agreed upon a text. This text was designed to be the forest policy recommendations to be sent to the next relevant meeting of the eighth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, or CSD-8.

As many of you know, in August 1995, ATWS won “Consultative Status” as a non-governmental organization (NGO) to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). This means that ATWS can send delegates to meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and commissions. The sentiment behind petitioning for, and ultimately gaining, this status was to facilitate the direct impact of ATWS on current Third World issues and developments. Thanks to this consultative status, I was able to attend three of four IFF sessions (II through IV). While my involvement with this process has constituted a large part of the research related to my doctoral thesis, I was also able to reflect on the apt involvement of an organization such as ATWS in UN-related activities.

For example, the factors that caused forest-related issues to be some of the most contentious at UNCED are still highly apparent in the current trajectories of the international forest policy dialogue. While legally-binding agreements have been established in other UNCED-related arenas, such as The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the most that delegates could agree on at UNCED in the forest arena was “[a] Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation, and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests.” This disunity was in part due to the lack of consensus over issues such as financing, trade, and transfer of technology to facilitate sustainable forest management to developing countries—issues that have been centrally placed on the agenda of subsequent forest policy negotiations.

The mandate of the IFF was to take up these matters, which had been left pending from the predecessor to the IFF, the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF). Furthermore, the IFF was created to facilitate implementation of the Proposals for Action of the IPF. Lastly, the IFF was mandated to assess the need for international arrangements on forests, including legally-binding instruments. It was, unfortunately, this last element which monopolized the discussions throughout the IFF process. As an NGO delegate at IFF II said, “Nobody wants to talk about anything here now because the whole agenda has been hijacked by the forest convention debate. It’s all been plowed over.”

Interestingly, the NGO and IPO (Indigenous Peoples Organization) community has, as a whole, been in opposition to a legally-binding instrument on forests. While organizations like Greenpeace, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the World Rainforest Movement (WRM), and the Global Forest Policy Project (GFPP) are clearly pro-forest, their opposition to a legally-binding instrument on forests has been clear. This position is based on several factors, including concerns regarding the shape that the proposals for a convention began to take during the post-UNCED forest policy negotiations. At IFF II, for example, a delegate from a prominent NGO told me that “NGO’s in 1992 at the Earth Summit thought that … we need a forest convention because we had in mind the kind of convention we would like. Since then we’ve discovered [whoops] it’s not going to be the kind of convention that gets created by this
I take this opportunity to wish everyone a successful New Year and to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the Association’s President for the 1999-2000 term. Everyone seemed pleased with the Seventeenth Annual meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, thanks to the hard work of several individuals. Stateside, Paul Rodell, Gary Kline, and Rolin Mainuddin consistently offered sound advice and encouragement. The Association benefited from the competent work of the local arrangements committee chaired by Mercedes Munoz Guillen, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Costa Rica. University of North Florida administrative assistants Kathleen M. Neenan and Charlene Davis gave generously of their time. Rick Carter at Mayan Tours was always available to assist with communications with the Herradura Hotel and with your plans. All in attendance benefited from the keynote address delivered by former Costa Rican President and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Oscar Arias Sanchez. His address will appear in the spring issue of the Journal of Third World Studies. Congratulations are in order for Dr. Nancy Shumaker (Georgia Southern University), recipient of the Presidential Award, Robert Olson (University of Kentucky), recipient of the Cecil B. Currey Award, and Mamadou Gaye (Cheikh Anta Diop University) and Nicdemus Fru Awasom (Buea University), co-winners of the Lawrence Dunbar Reddick Award.

As we enter the new millennium, the ATWS continues to change and, at the same time, to grow. Shortly, we will begin the search for a new editor of the Journal of Third World Studies. After a long and successful tenure Dr. Harold Isaacs has decided it is time to pass the helm to another. While we hope that you will consider taking on this important responsibility, we should also take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to Dr. Isaacs for his splendid contributions to the organization.

Two new projects are underway that hopefully will contribute to the Association’s growth. Exploratory discussions are being held with the Popular Culture Association to develop a mutual affiliation agreement. The linkage would provide the opportunity to expand the Association’s membership and, at the same time, provide a new venue for professional presentations by ATWS members. Professor James Sowerwine (Kutztown University) will chair an ad hoc committee to develop guidelines for a graduate student paper award at the annual conference. These two projects, along with the numerous non-ATWS participants at the San Jose meeting, offer the Association the opportunity to continually increase its membership. Other suggestions that you may have are most welcome.

Dr. Thomas M. Leonard, President, ATWS
International Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences
University of North Florida
Jacksonville, FL 32224
Phone: (904) 620-2886, Fax: (904) 620-1018
Email: tleonard@unf.edu

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

18th Annual Meeting of the Association of Third World Studies, Inc.

OCTOBER 19-21, 2000

GOLDA MEIR CENTER FOR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE, DENVER, COLORADO


Scope: Papers and Panels from all academic disciplines that deal with the study of Africa, Asia (except Japan), Latin America and the Middle East are welcome. Presentations that link past events and trends to issues of regional security, politics, economics and social environmental concerns of the future are especially encouraged.

Submission Procedure: Persons interested in presenting papers or panels must submit a 200 word abstract. Persons interested in serving as chair and/or commentator must submit a brief statement describing their area(s) of expertise. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: JUNE 1, 2000.

For more information concerning Proposals for Papers, Panels, and Chair/Discussants:

Professor Steve Y. Rhee, ATWS President-Elect, Dept. of Criminal Justice, Social & Political Science, Armstrong Atlantic State University, 11935 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31419-1997, Phone (912) 921-5675, Fax (912) 921-5876, E-mail: rheestev@mail.armstrong.edu or Srhree44969@aol.com
Forest Policy Deadlock Shows Signs of Abatement (continued from page 1)

[NGO] crowd.” It’s clearly going to be a very different kind of convention. Once we looked at the substance of what the pro-forest convention crowd seems to want most... and what they want to block and undermine, and so on, we can add all that up and say, ‘Oh my god, you know, that’s a threat, that’s not a help to the world’s forests,’ ”

While the relationship between the NGO’s and government delegates is uneasy at times, the introduction of NGO participation into the process that came with UNCED is clearly an important one. As described by an NGO delegate, “A lot of governments seem to want to talk about expanding completely unrestricted trade in timber, but they don’t want to talk about the clear downside of international trade in timber, and how to deal with those problems. They don’t want to deal with illegal timber trade and logging; they definitely don’t want to deal with the rights of indigenous peoples’ local communities; they don’t want to deal with participation, democracy, and how to give people who really have a stake in the fate of forests greater voice in how they’re managed.”

This participation in the process by those who are not explicitly government delegates allows for the debate to begin to take on issues that may not be central to governments’ agendas. Throughout my involvement in the IFF process, it has become increasingly clear to me that NGOs play an important role in forcing particular items on the agenda and in holding governments’ feet to the fire. In the case of an organization such as ATWS, involvement in the UN processes can reflect two things. First, it can reflect our concerns about the problems experienced by developing countries. More importantly, it can contribute to the debate through the work we have done, as academicians, to study the complexities of these problems—complexities which tend to get conflated within the context of the intergovernmental dialogue on international environmental policy.

While IFF finally came to an uneasy conclusion after a long night of debate, the forest negotiation process continues through other arenas at the UN. The debates about participation and democracy are not over. The negotiations regarding indigenous peoples’ rights are really just beginning. Reflecting on my brief stint in the UN arena, I cannot help but think that the involvement of ATWS in the UN processes is incredibly apt given the work that many of us are doing with such issues. Bringing our perspectives to the debate can be nothing but helpful. ♦

Golda Meir Center for Political Leadership To Host 18th Annual ATWS Meeting

The Golda Meir Center for Political Leadership at Metropolitan State College of Denver is extremely pleased to host the 18th Annual Meeting of the Association of Third World Studies in Denver, Colorado during October 2000. We hope you can attend and the following is some preliminary general information.

The meeting will be held October 19-21. Registration will begin at the hotel (Denver Marriott City Center) at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 19 and will last until 6:00 p.m. A reception at the hotel beginning at 7:30 p.m. will follow registration. The meeting will run through Saturday night, October 21. If there is sufficient interest, a complimentary bus tour to the Rocky Mountains will be available Sunday, October 22. With this meeting schedule in mind, we recommend that you reserve a hotel room for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. If you are planning on the trip to the mountains, please allow yourself time and do not schedule a departure time before 3:00 p.m.

The Association has secured rooms in the Marriott City Center for the very reasonable rate of $83 per night. The rate is the same for either a single or double room. The hotel is located in the heart of downtown Denver at 1701 California Street, right off the 16th Street walking mall. For reservations, please call 800-228-9298 or 303-297-1300 and mention that you will be attending the ATWS meeting so that you will receive the special, negotiated rate. Please make your reservations as soon as possible.

The hotel is near the Auraria Campus where the Golda Meir Center at Metropolitan State College is located. A light-rail line, which runs to the Auraria Campus, can be boarded next to the hotel. All of the panels and the Friday night dinner will be held in the Tivoli Student Union on the Auraria Campus.

While none of the hotels in downtown Denver provide airport-shuttle service, you can get from the airport to the hotel at a rather modest cost. There is a direct, public bus service to downtown Denver within easy reach of the hotel, for example, that is $10 round trip. There are also shuttles to the hotel for approximately $15 each way. Complete details and directions for all options will be sent to everyone attending the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Norman Provizer, director of Golda Meir Center for Political Leadership and Chair, Political Science Department, Metropolitan State College of Denver, Campus Box 43, P. O. Box 173362, Denver, CO, USA 80217-3362, Telephone: 303-556-3157, Fax: 303-556-2716, email: provizen@m:sc.edu ♦
South Asia Holds Fourth Annual ATWS Conference

By K. K. Kusuman, Chairman of the Program Committee for Annual Conferences, ATWS, South Asia Chapter in India

The South Asia Chapter of ATWS held its fourth annual conference, March 13-14, 1999. Approximately twenty-five scholars presented papers at six sessions that focused on the theme of the conference, “Religious and Communal Setting and the Problem of National Integration in India.” The conference was held at the San Thome Dialogue Centre in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.

The conference was opened by an inaugural address by Chapter President and Founder Dr. Isaiah Azariah. Dr. K.K. Kusuman, chair of the program committee, gave the “Welcome.” The inaugural address was given by Dr. (Sr.) Palatty Mercy, principal of Holy Cross College in Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu.

The conference closed with the “Valedictory Session,” which featured an address by the chief guest, Professor M. Salihu, honorable vice-chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University.
Remember to Vote!

The 2000 election ballots and candidates’ biographical sketches are in the Mail! Elections are open for the following positions: Vice President/President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Council Post # 3, Chairs of the Four Standing Committees. Write-in nominations are encouraged. Completed ballots should be returned to Dr. Marcia Jones, Acting Chair of Nominations and Elections, Georgia Southern University, P. O. Box 8035, Statesboro, GA 30460-8035. Ballots must be postmarked by May 26, 2000.

The nominees are: Vice President/President Elect: Abdul Karim Bangura and Nancy Shumaker. Responsibilities: The Vice President/President Elect shall serve a term of one year, and shall succeed to the office of President.

Secretary: Lauren E. Eastwood. Responsibilities: The Secretary shall serve a term of three years, and may be re-elected. The duties of the Secretary shall be to 1) handle correspondence related to the Association; and 2) serve as secretary of the Executive Council, and record the minutes at the annual meeting and all other meetings and send them to the membership within a reasonable time.

Treasurer: Yekutiel Gershoni and Gary Kline. Responsibilities: The Treasurer shall serve a term of three years, and may be re-elected. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to 1) maintain the financial records and handle the correspondence related to the Association’s finances; and ii) collect, record and disburse all funds, and present a financial report at the annual meeting.

Executive Council Post # 3: Andrew Clark and Paul Kuruk. Responsibilities: Serve on the Executive Council. The duties of the Executive Council shall be to 1) direct the activities of the Association; 2) establish the time and place of the annual meeting and such special meetings as may be called; 3) fill vacancies which may occur in any office between the annual meetings; 4) formulate and propose plans for the implementation of the purposes of the Association.

Chairs of the Four Standing Committees: Responsibilities: The chair of each standing committee shall be elected by the membership for a term of three years, from a list of candidates prepared by the Nominating Committee for each chair position. Each committee chair will in turn select the remaining members of his or her committee. Each committee chair will send an annual report of the committee’s activities to the Executive Council.

Nominations/Elections Committee:
Michael Phillips and Darin Van Tassell

Teaching Committee:
Bob Curry and David Schwam-Baird

Information Services Committee:
Michael Share and James Sowerine

Fund Raising Committee:
Michael Hall and Daniel Skidmore-Hess

Attendance Policy

At its meeting in Hartford, CT, in October 1997, the ATWS Executive Council determined a new policy with regard to conference participants who fail to fulfill their obligations as program participants.

“Beginning with the 16th Annual Meeting of the Association of Third World Studies in 1998, any person who fails to attend two meetings for which he/she has been notified of program participation (unless that individual has made arrangements for a substitute) will not be allowed to participate in future meetings. This means that any proposals from that individual will not be accepted by the Association for future meetings. Any individual who did not participate in a meeting for which he or she received approval from the program chair will receive a written reminder of the policy. This policy will be waived should the participant arrange for a substitute to serve in the individual's capacity in the program.”

New Registration Deadline

At its meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, in November 1999, the ATWS Executive Council established a new policy regarding conference participants who do not pay their registration fees by the established deadline.

“Beginning with the 18th Annual Meeting of the Association of Third World Studies in 2000, any conference participant (paper presenter, chair, or discussant) who does not register by the established deadline may be removed from the program without the possibility of being reinstated in the annual meeting despite the earlier acceptance of his/her paper or of his/her role as chair or discussant.”

ATWS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

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Please make checks payable to ATWS (Association of Third World Studies) and mail to Dr. Gary Kline, Treasurer, Association of Third World Studies, Inc., Department of History/Political Science, Georgia Southwestern State University, 800 Wheatley Street, Americus, GA 31709-4693.

There is a real need for the ATWS to develop a separate fund to be used to support scholarship among our members, to award prizes each year for a Best Book written by an ATWS member, and a Best Article written by an ATWS member published in the Journal of Third World Studies.

Such efforts are now difficult at best and cannot be funded solely by money in our general fund.

Last year the ATWS started a Book Prize Fund. The Executive Council needs your help and your financial support to make it grow. The Council asks you to join in this effort by completing the attached pledge/support card. Your continued support of the ATWS is greatly appreciated.
Announcements . . .

Job Openings

Editor, Journal of Third World Studies: The Association of Third World Studies, Inc., solicits applications and nominations for editor of its biannual journal, the Journal of Third World Studies. This is a non-salaried position. The editor works collegially with his/her associate editors in the process of preparing each issue of the Journal, but has the ultimate authority and responsibility with regard to approval of submissions, editorial changes, preparing the Journal for the printer, proofreading the printer’s proof pages, and distributing the Journal’s issues to members and subscribers. The editor negotiates costs, schedules, and procedures with the printer with whom he/she will work in the production of the Journal.

Qualifications: The Editor should hold a permanent appointment at an educational, government or comparable institution; have a record of academic accomplishments; have experience in reviewing and editing manuscripts and book reviews, and proofreading journal contents; and have the ability to work collegially.

Institutional support should include financial support for the expenses of mailing the Journal and related correspondence, article submissions, books for review and other incidental postal costs [approximately $4200 for 1999]; the services of a part-time secretary to assist in matters such as text preparation, word processing, preparation of computer diskettes for the publisher, and the editor’s correspondence [approximately ten hours per week for 1999]; adequate storage space to house back issues of the Journal (in addition to the editor’s regular academic office and that of the secretary) and release time commensurate with the editor’s responsibilities.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Submit Applications/Nominations to Tom Leonard, the position is filled. Submit Application with the editor’s responsibilities.

secretary) and release time commensurate with the editor’s regular correspondence [approximately ten hours per week for 1999]; adequate storage space to house back issues of the Journal, but has the ultimate authority and responsibility with regard to approval of submissions, editorial changes, preparing the Journal for the printer, proofreading the printer’s proof pages, and distributing the Journal’s issues to members and subscribers. The editor negotiates costs, schedules, and procedures with the printer with whom he/she will work in the production of the Journal.

Qualifications: The Editor should hold a permanent appointment at an educational, government or comparable institution; have a record of academic accomplishments; have experience in reviewing and editing manuscripts and book reviews, and proofreading journal contents; and have the ability to work collegially.

Institutional support should include financial support for the expenses of mailing the Journal and related correspondence, article submissions, books for review and other incidental postal costs [approximately $4200 for 1999]; the services of a part-time secretary to assist in matters such as text preparation, word processing, preparation of computer diskettes for the publisher, and the editor’s correspondence [approximately ten hours per week for 1999]; adequate storage space to house back issues of the Journal (in addition to the editor’s regular academic office and that of the secretary) and release time commensurate with the editor’s responsibilities.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Submit Applications/Nominations to Tom Leonard, president, ATWS, International Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida 32224. •

Senior Technical Advisor: USAID/Ghana seeks a Senior Technical Advisor: Reproductive Health USAID/Ghana, Accra, Ghana (PLP#00-004) to expand and improve the use of reproductive and child health services in Ghana. The Senior Technical Advisor will serve as the principal technical expert for reproductive health program policy, strategy and implementation. The advisor will provide Mission management, Ghanaian counterparts, and donor representatives with technical expertise and policy guidance to achieve results in the areas of population, family planning, maternal health, and HIV/AIDS/STD.

Technical Advisor: USAID/Ghana seeks a Technical Advisor: PHN Sector Economics and Financing, Africa Bureau, U.S. Agency for International Development, Washington, D.C., (PLP#99-001) to assist the Africa Bureau (AFR) in identifying mechanisms for financing family planning and other health services. The advisor will provide expertise and guidance in identifying critical issues and defining research and analysis priorities in population, health and nutrition, finance, and private health sector development.

Qualifications: Master degree or higher in population, family planning, public health or related field. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien. Salary is based on experience and salary history. To apply, submit a resume and cover letter detailing skills, experience, and job position desired to James P. Williams, Director, The Population Leadership Program, The Public Health Institute, 210 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, Phone (831) 427-4920, Fax (831) 427-4984, Email popldr@pacbell.net •

Executive Director: The Africa Fund/The American Committee on Africa (AF/ACOA) is seeking a dynamic and committed person for the position of Executive Director. Applicants are expected to provide evidence of successful leadership ability and experience, effective communication and fund-raising skills and the willingness and ability to manage and administer the AF/ACOAs small staff of six and a modest annual budget of $600,000. A written letter of application including a recent résumé and three references should be sent to Tilden J LeMelle, c/o The Africa Fund, 50 Broad Street, Suite 711, New York, NY 10004 by June 13, 2000. The Africa Fund was founded in 1966 by the American Committee on Africa. Its goals is to improve U.S. policy toward Africa and support African human rights, democracy and development on that continent. •

Country Director - Burundi: Search for Common Ground in Burundi is a multi-dimensional project, which promotes reconciliation, attempts to assist the process of national reconciliation in Burundi at all levels and to help prevent further violence. The Country Director will live in Bujumbura, where conditions are difficult, but where comfortable housing will be provided. Responsibilities include: providing direction to the overall goals of SCG in Burundi; developing and maintaining relationships with key Burundian officials, UN agencies and embassies, and NGO and local and international NGO representatives; provide supervision to the radio director, women’s center director and administrative staff and developing new programs; working with directors in preparing proposals and fund raising. Significant project management experience—knowledge of conflict resolution theory and practice; knowledge of USAID rules and regulations; experience with proposal writing and grants management; creative problem solving skills; knowledge of the region and current issues. Proficiency in French is essential. Flexibility and a desire to be part of a great team a must! send cover letter and resume to: The Burundi Project, SCG, 200 Washington, DC 20009 Fax: 202-232-6718 Email: burundi@sfcg.org. Deadline is May 19, 2000.

More job volunteer opportunities are available at <http://www.igc.org/igc/gateway/jobvol.html> •
**Upcoming Conferences**

The Center for Studying Africa and the Middle East (El Centro de Estudios sobre África y Medio Oriente-CEAMO) will offer the Seventh International Seminar about Current Issues in Africa and the Middle East on November 22-24, 2000, in Havana, Cuba. The conference will include debates about current issues in Africa and the Middle East, and how these topics fit into a global context.

The conference will include presentations and discussions from a social science point of view about globalization, regional conflicts and their resolution, political leadership, economic themes, current issues involving social, cultural, environmental, and gender topics.

Your participation as an attendee, speaker, presenter, panel discussant, or leader of round table discussions is invited. CEAMO welcomes development and presentation of any other interesting topic that meets the seminar’s objectives and regional focus.

Speakers desiring to be scheduled on the program should send their presentation title and a one-page resume to CEAMO no later than October 15, 2000. Presentation materials must be delivered to the Organization Committee by the registration date on a floppy disk to facilitate their materials being published after the seminar.

If you wish to attend the seminar, you can register fifteen days in advance. The registration fees are $40 US for speakers and $60 US for participants.

For further information, contact PAAMA Organization Committee, CEAMO, Calle 3ra No. 1805, e/18 y 20, Miramar, Playa, Ciudad de La Habana, Cuba, Telephone: 22-1222, 22-1890 or 29-5841, E-mail: ceamo@ceniai.inf.cu

The Microcredit Summit is pleased to announce that the Zimbabwe-based Steering Committee of the Africa Regional Microcredit Summit has finalized the dates for the meeting. The meeting will be held July 2-8, 2000, at the Harare Sheraton Conference Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe. The theme of the meeting will be “Microfinance in Africa: A Sustainable Approach to Poverty Reduction.”

The Fourth Inter-American Relations Conference is scheduled for March 28-30, 2001, at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. Send proposals to Tom Leonard, International Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL 32224, Email: tleonard@unf.edu

**Call for Manuscripts**

Latin American Perspectives accepts submissions of manuscripts for upcoming issues. If interested, contact LAP, P. O. Box 5703, Riverside, CA 92517-5703, (909) 787-5073, ext: 1571, Fax: (909) 787-5685, Email: laps@ucrac1.ucr.edu or visit our website: http://wizard.ucr.edu/lap

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General Fields of Interest __________________________________________

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*This is the address to which you will be sent, twice per year, the Journal of Third World Studies. Please make checks payable to the “Association of Third World Studies, Inc.” Please send your check and completed membership form to

Dr. Gary Kline, Treasurer
Association of Third World Studies, Inc.
Georgia Southwestern State University
800 Wheatley St., Americus, GA 31709

You may register on the Internet.
Our Web address is:
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