



The Geneva Office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and
The CONGO Special Committee on Human Rights
cordially invite you to a public panel discussion at the 8th session of the HRC on

Lessons learned on civil society involvement in the Universal Periodic Review process

The first two sessions of the UPR Working Group completed their activities and the UPR final outcomes have been adopted by the Council during the 2nd week of its 8th session. NGOs had the opportunity to provide written inputs constituting the initial basis of the review process, monitored the sessions of the UPR working group and had the opportunity to make general comments before the adoption of each UPR outcome.

Looking back at the impact and performances of the NGO contributions into the UPR, this side event will provide a space to discuss lessons learned from this first series of reviews. Civil society actors will share their experiences both at the national level and in the Geneva-based steps of the process, identifying which strategies have worked and which have not. Panelists and participants will also explore how NGOs can be better involved and strengthen their engagement with the follow up to the UPR. The third session of the UPR Working Group in December 2008 will represent the opportunity for civil society entities to consolidate their understanding of how to significantly impact on the UPR proceedings, preventing it from becoming a routine exercise with little results in the national context.

Friday, 13 June 2008, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Palais des Nations, Room IX

Speakers

- **Theodor Rathgeber** – *Deutsches Forum Menschenrechte*
- **Judith Cohen** – *South African Human Rights Commission*
- **Michael Anthony** – *Asian Legal Resource Centre*

Moderation / Welcome

- **Budi Tjahjono** - *CONGO Committee on Human Rights / Pax Romana*
- **Felix Kirchmeier** – *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung*

∞ Simultaneous interpretation for English, Spanish and French will be available ∞

∞ Sandwiches and light refreshments will be provided ∞