
A Secretariat for the Host Country Organizing Committee has been set up. It was formally opened on 17th June 2004 by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Secretary-General of the Nairobi Summit 2004 on a Mine-Free World, Ambassador Peter O. Ole Nkuraiyia. It is located on the first floor of the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) and comprises offices of the Head/Co-coordinator and support staff as well as a computer room and a board room for Committee meetings.
The Head/Coordinator of the Secretariat is Michael Oyugi. Previously he coordinated the affairs of the Summit in his capacity as Head of International Organisations & Conferences (IOC) Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However in April 2004, he was seconded to the Secretariat on a full-time basis.

The address and contacts of the Secretariat are as follows:
- Host Country Organizing Committee Secretariat
  - P.O. Box 30551 – 00100
  - Nairobi, Kenya
  - Tel: 254 (0)20 344090
  - Fax: 254 (0)20 344132
  - email: info@nairobiminefreesummit.or.ke

A special website on logistical arrangements for the Conference has been established. Its address is: www.minefreesummitnbi.or.ke

The site is a repository of information including:
- Conference background and details
- Visa issuance
- Hotel accommodation
- General information e.g. weather, currency,
- International and local travel, places of interest etc.,

Information on logistics, organizational matters etc., will be provided and updated on a regular basis through the website.
Official Launch of the Secretariat's Website

Kenya is a beautiful country that is about as large as France and situated in East Africa between 5°N and 5°S. Its rich cultural diversity, beautiful landscape and good facilities attracts many people. Information will be provided on places of tourist interest for delegates who may wish to take a tour both within the environs of Nairobi as well as beyond.

The First Review Conference of the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention, also known as "Nairobi Summit 2004 on a Mine-Free World" will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, 29th November to 3rd December 2004 at United Nations Facilities in Nairobi. The aim of this important international conference is to chart a course for the solution of the landmine problem in the coming years.

It will be under the chairmanship of Wolfgang Petritsch, Austria’s Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva. The assumption of the presidency is recognition of Austria’s active role in the “Ottawa Process”. Austria was one of those states that insisted during the negotiations on a total ban of antipersonnel landmines, which subsequently led to the adoption of the Convention in 1997. The text of the Convention itself is based on an Austrian draft.

The Secretary-General of the Summit is Amb. Peter O. Ole Nkuraiyia Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since the signing of the Ottawa Convention, 1.7 billion US Dollars have been generated for mine-action. These funds have been used mostly for mine clearance, but also for mine risk education campaigns and for victim assistance projects. More than 31 million mines have been destroyed from army stockpiles worldwide.

The official launch of the Nairobi Summit

The Review Conference preparatory process as well as the Host Country Organizing Committee were formally launched by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, on 4th February, 2004. This was a high profile media event attended by amongst others, Cabinet Ministers, senior Government officials, Ambassadors and heads of international organizations based in Nairobi. Major media houses were also present and gave the occasion, widespread publicity.

Invitations

• Personal invitations have been sent to all Heads of State/Government by His Excellency Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya.
• The Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Kofi Annan has similarly been invited.
• It is hoped that many of these VVIPs will participate in the Summit.

Opening Ceremony

• This will be held on Sunday, 28th November, 2004 at Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC), Plenary Hall.
• The ceremony will be presided over by His Excellency Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya.
• It will begin at 1400 hours and last for approximately 2 hours.
• It will immediately be followed by a reception at the same venue, offered by the Government of Kenya.
• A special committee has been set up to work on the programme and the main event.
Opening Ceremony

• Requests have been received from organizations interested in making presentations or staging some form of activity during the ceremony.
• These are being considered and it is hoped that they will be accommodated in the programme to the extent possible.
• Organizations interested in staging a performance or activity either in the Plenary Hall during the ceremony, or on the margins are urged to come up with their requests as soon as possible, and in any case by 31st August, 2004 since the programme is limited in terms of time.

Security

• Special security measures will be put in place for the meeting. Additional security personnel will be deployed specifically to handle security at the time of the Conference. This will include increased police patrols around hotels, between the Conference venue, the airport and hotels.
• Police will also be on standby to help ease traffic congestion between the Conference venue and the central business district in Nairobi where the major hotels are situated.

Accommodation

• There are several hotels of different categories in Nairobi ranging from luxury five-star, to moderate three-star hotels.
• Participants are responsible for booking their own accommodations.
• However, a travel agent has been appointed to handle hotel reservations for delegates attending the Summit. This is: Holiday Plus Tours and Travel.
  Their contact details are as follows:
  - Tel: 254-(0)20-2730797/8
  - Fax: 254-(0)20-2730798
  - Email: holidayplus@iconnect.co.ke

• The agent will also provide information on places of tourist interest for the delegates who may wish to take a tour both within the environs of Nairobi as well as beyond.
• Delegations are strongly encouraged to make early reservations to obtain preferential rates.
• A list of recommended hotels is available with details of their locations and rates on the travel agent’s website www.holidaypluskenya.com.
Transport

- Shuttle buses will be available to move delegates from the airport to hotels on arrival and back to the airport on departure, and from hotels to the Conference center and to other official functions.
- Taxis are also available at the airport, hotels and several points in the city.
- Separate transport arrangements will be made for VIPs.
- The United Nations Office at Nairobi, is 9 kms from the city centre, which is approximately a 15-minute drive during off peak hours and 30 minutes during peak hours.

Airport

- The main international airport serving Nairobi is the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).
- A special desk will be put in place at the airport to facilitate smooth immigration and other arrival formalities for accredited delegates.
- The airport is equipped with modern facilities for the convenience of travellers including bureaux de change, banks, restaurants, communications, etc.

Visas

- Accredited delegates and other participants will be issued with gratis visas at Kenya Embassies and Consulates abroad or at the airport or point of entry into the country.
- Delegates are however encouraged to obtain visas beforehand to hasten passport control procedures.

Health

- A yellow fever vaccination certificate is mandatory for travellers over one year of age coming from countries where yellow fever may occur. There is little risk of contracting malaria in Nairobi and in the surrounding highlands. Nairobi is served by a wide range of modern and well equipped hospitals and other health facilities staffed by specialized medical personnel.
- BUPA (The British United Provident Association) , the international medical/health insurance arrangement is accepted by a number of hospitals in Kenya. It is also possible to open temporary accounts with some hospitals.
Exhibitions

• Information on points of contact will be provided to States Parties and organizations which wish to have an exhibit at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON). Please note that subject to funding arrangements, exhibitors may have to cover the costs of exhibition infrastructure. Please note as well that exhibits from for-profit enterprises will not be permitted and that all exhibits must be consistent with the object and purpose of the Convention.

• There is a possibility of staging some exhibitions during the opening ceremony in the afternoon of 28th November 2004. Space is however limited and there might be some financial implications. Interested organizations are urged to make their requests to the Secretariat before 31st August 2004 at the address provided above.

Side Events

• A series of side events are planned to be held from about 25th November – 3rd December 2004 by various organizations. Interested parties are requested to contact the Implementation Support Unit (isu@gichd.ch) as early as possible.

• A limited number of rooms are available at UNON for States Parties and organizations to reserve for side-meetings or activities. Please contact the Implementation Support Unit (isu@gichd.ch) for more information. Please note that States Parties and organizations are discouraged from holding side events concurrent to Review Conference sessions.

Customs Clearance

• Equipment for use at the Conference will be exempted from duty and taxes on the understanding that these will be re-exported at the end of the Conference. Equipment destined for the United Nations will be exempted from duty and taxes. Other organizations or individuals would however be required to take out a cash bond on such equipment through customs clearance agents. A list of such agents as well as other details can be obtained from the Kenya Revenue Authority at the following address:
  - Commissioner of Customs and Excise
  - Tel: +254-(0)20-310900
  - Fax: 254-(0)20-341217
  - P.O. Box 40160- 00100
  - Nairobi, Kenya
  - Email: james.oiko@kra.go.ke
  - Website: www.revenue.go.ke

Host Country Agreement

• The text of an agreement between the Government of Kenya and the United Nations has been prepared and submitted to the United Nations. It is expected that the agreement will be concluded shortly.
In line with raising awareness on the conference, major activities have been held so far and the Host country Organizing Committee is planning others.

Publicity activities include a ceremony commemorating the 5th anniversary of entry into force of the anti-personnel mine (Ottawa) Convention. This was held on 1st March 2004 at the Starehe Boys Centre, in Nairobi. It primarily targeted the youth and involved students from 5 major schools. The Guest of Honour was an Assistant Minister in the Office of the President, Prof. Kivutha Kibwana. The President-Designate of the Summit, Amb. Wolfgang Petritsch also participated in the event.

The Other major activity was the hosting of a Workshop on Landmines in East Africa and the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines jointly organized by the Government of Kenya and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from 2nd to 4th, March 2004 in Nairobi. The Workshop was opened by Kenya’s Internal Security Minister, Hon. Dr. Chris Murungaru, while Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Minister for Foreign Affairs closed it.

On 16th March 2004, a reception was held for a group of cyclists participating in the Cairo to Cape race known as the Tour D’Afrique Bicycle Race. It is one of the toughest races in the world. Among the cyclists was a Swiss citizen, Armin Kohli, (a double amputee). He dedicated his participation to the crusade against mines. He was joined by Kenyan amputee cyclists. The Guest of Honour was Kenya’s Sports and Culture Minister, Hon. Najib Balala. The Secretary-General of the Summit, Ambassador Peter O. Ole Nkuraiya was also present.
• On 31st March, 2004 in Nairobi, another media event to highlight the Nairobi Summit 2004 on a Mine-Free World was held. It was a luncheon and a panel briefing session hosted by the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi. Key speakers at the function included the Director of Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Thuita Mwangi, the Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya, His Excellency J. C. Wall, and Coordinator of the Kenya Coalition Against landmines Ms Mereso Agina.

• The formal launching of the Secretariat and website of the Host Country Organizing Committee was in itself a high profile media function and received widespread coverage both in the print and electronic media.

• As part of the awareness programme of activities, the Government of Kenya has brought the Summit to the attention of the African Union at the highest level. The Summit will thus feature on the agenda of the Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union scheduled for 6th – 8th July 2004, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This is expected to result in a resolution calling for an active participation at the highest level by African countries at the Nairobi Summit, amongst other things.

• Other planned activities of the Committee, include publishing of newspaper supplements, radio and television talk shows by selected panellists, and a Video/TV documentary on the Summit.
• More publicity activities are planned to maintain awareness on the Nairobi Summit. These include media updates and briefings for target audiences e.g. journalists and diplomats.