

Red Cross/ Red Crescent Climate Centre NEWSFLASH 2- UNFCCC Climate Conference, Poznań Poland 2008.

5 December 2008 - A quick glance in hectic negotiations, by Fleur Monasso

Heavily engaged in networking, the staff and volunteers of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent are running up and down between the meeting halls. Quick updates are exchanged from previous meetings to prepare for the next. Influencing groups of people is already difficult, but influencing the most complicated UN Process of this year even more so.

At the end of the two weeks in Poznan, if all goes well, there is hopefully a draft text for the negotiations in the coming year. As is often stated here in Poznan, the current economic crisis can not be used as a reason for delay. It should be seen as an opportunity to strengthen the global community's commitment to make necessary changes in the way the world's economies are energized and financed.

The Red Cross/ Red Crescent is organizing press conferences, briefing sessions with country delegations and side-events to inform delegations about our concerns and proposed solutions. Starting in the early morning to late in the evening we are sharing information and discussing tactics with other humanitarian and 'disaster risk reduction' organizations at the conference. The sessions that we engage ourselves in concern specialized sessions on adaptation, finance, health and youth.

A second press conference of the IFRC in Poznan

Today it is 'International Volunteers Day' and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has used this opportunity to organize a press conference to announce a global campaign: "**Our World, Your Move**". As global crises escalate and the humanitarian community becomes increasingly overwhelmed, we believe that volunteers are the ones that have to adapt quickest to these fast- changing crises, and that they can make a real difference in the vulnerable communities they live in. During the press conference, the Secretary General of the IFRC, Mr. Geleta stressed that proactive preparation and greater awareness will be needed if the challenges of climate change are to be met. "It is vital that we better prepare and train community-based volunteers to meet the critical challenges ahead. Well-trained volunteers remain our best defence against disasters and, as first responders, volunteers are best-placed to protect communities at risk".



The very large plenary halls, as big as soccer fields can house numerous people.

For updated information, please visit the UNFCCC website at: www.unfccc.int