Kosovo Decision Makers Call Citizens to Maintain Peace and Stability during Status Settlement Process

Representatives of local and central government, NGO, media and business sector in five regions of Kosovo had the opportunity to gather information, make their concerns heard, and ask questions about the Kosovo status settlement process, through five town hall meetings organized by ATRC in May.

Regional town hall meetings in Pristina, Mitrovica, Peja, Gjilan and Ferizaj aimed to further and widely inform the opinion about the outcome of status settlement, which followed twenty-nine community roundtable meetings held in February and March.

The meetings also informed civil society organizations and citizens about the proposal of Martti Ahtisaari, UN Secretary General Envoy in Charge of the Negotiations on the future status of Kosovo.

Local decision-makers and foreign diplomats called citizens to maintain peace and stability at the time when status for the future of Kosovo is in its final phase.

"We've made compromises. Ahtisaari's proposal is a good balance. It proposes Kosovo become a state," Prime Minister Agim Çeku said at the Pristina meeting on May 22.

The proposal consists of protecting mechanisms for minority rights whether they are individual or political, Çeku added.

Local decision-makers and foreign diplomats called citizens to maintain peace and stability at the time when status for the future of Kosovo is in its final phase.

"We've made compromises. Ahtisaari's proposal is a good balance. It proposes Kosovo become a state," Prime Minister Agim Çeku said at the Pristina meeting on May 22.

The proposal consists of protecting mechanisms for minority rights whether they are individual or political, Çeku added.

The Head of British Office in Kosovo, David Blunt, stated that Ahtisaari's package is the result of compromise and divergent views. According to Blunt, the package represents the views of majority and the need for protection of minorities.

Future resolution of UN Security Council for Kosovo, Russian role in the status settlement process, challenges of implementing Ahtisaari's package and functionality of Kosovo state, and decentralization process were main issues of concern raised by participants.

For the full status proposal, visit www.unosek.org
Olof Palme International Center Launches Its Yearly Round of Funding

Civil society organizations interested in receiving financial support for their projects are invited to submit proposals for Palme Center's funding for 2008.

Coordinator of Olof Palme International Center in Prishtina, Levent Biçaku, informed local NGO representatives about the Palme Center's programs at two roundtable meetings organized by ATRC on May 10 and 11 in Prishtina and Mitrovica. Biçaku outlined funding objectives and priorities, application procedures, as well as available funds for Kosovo.

The Olof Palme International Center, a Swedish based organization, launched its yearly round of funding in May under the Western Balkans Program, funded by the Swedish Development Agency - Sida.

"Funding priorities include democracy, human rights and peace," Biçaku stated.

He urged NGO representatives to submit better project proposals because "the chances of being funded depend on the quality of proposals."

The Palme Center works for a free, peaceful and democratic world in which human rights are respected, Biçaku added.

For information about Olof Palme International Center's funds and application visit: www.palmecenter.org (click 'Western Balkan program') or contact Palme Center's Kosovo office: levent.bicaku@palmecenter.se.

Rockefeller Brothers Fund Supports Sustainable Development in Kosovo

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund is a philanthropic organization working to promote social change.

ATRC organized two roundtable meetings between local NGOs and the representative of Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) for the Western Balkans, Haki Abazi, on May 17 and 18 in Prishtina and Mitrovica.

Abazi introduced RBF grant programs which are organized around four themes: democratic practice; sustainable development; peace and security; and human advancement.

"The Rockefeller Brothers Fund has been engaged in grant making in Kosovo since 2003. The Fund now concentrates its grant making on two of its programmatic themes: democratic practice and sustainable development," Abazi said.

"This reflects the RBF's assessment that helping build tolerant and pluralistic democracy and promote sustainable development in the region, represent top priorities for significant impact."

How to apply, grant making process and additional information about RBF programs can be found on www.rbf.org.

The donor presentation was part of an ATRC program that seeks to link NGOs with funding opportunities and donors with NGOs that have similar interests.
Officials in the Municipality of Prizren used public vehicles without any regulation/administrative instruction that would authorize rules and purposes of vehicle usage in Prizren. This was the case until March 2007 when Municipal Assembly adopted the "Regulation for Official Vehicles Usage in the Municipality of Prizren," as a result of advocacy efforts of Radio Network for Human Rights (RNHR). Prizren is not the only municipality where RNHR advocates for transparency, but it is its major success. Radio Network for Human Rights is implementing a project entitled "Transparency and the Right for Public Information about Official Documents" which covers six Kosovo municipalities: Pristina, Fushë Kosova/Kosovo Polje, Klina, Mitrovica, Prizren and Kamenica.

The project aims to advance processes of transparency on local level through media in reaching public. "The impact of RNHR on the work of Municipality of Prizren is a good indicator for the role media must play in law implementation by decision-makers for the benefit of citizens," Ekrem Qitaku, director of RNHR, said.

Eight radio stations from different regions of Kosovo representing all ethnic communities are part of the network: Vala Rinore, Yeni Donem, Contact Plus, Radio Kamenica, Radio Peja, Radio K, Kent Fm and Radio Contact.

For more information, contact: rdnvalarinore@gmail.com

Human Rights Radio Network Promotes Transparency on Local Level

One hundred and seventy new titles were added to ATRC library in April and May. Totally, the library hosts more than 800 titles of books, reports and other materials about advocacy, civil society, leadership, gender awareness, human rights and more. Kosovo and international NGOs, university students, journalists, governmental employees and interested citizens have access to the library.

It holds publications and training materials in English, Albanian, and Serbian in the fields of management, advocacy and lobbying, social, economic, political, legal and health problems, gender, and the environment. The library also contains an interesting collection of studies, reports, and directories on issues of political, economic, and social development in Kosovo published by local and international organizations.

ATRC will continue to update its library therefore different institutions and organizations are welcomed to contribute with their new publications by contacting info@advocacy-center.org or 038 244 810.

Users can access to librarian database online at www.advocacy-center.org (click services) to check the complete list of all titles and availability.
Municipality officials and NGOs discussed public services of municipalities during five workshops held in April and May in five Kosovo regions, organized by Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) and supported by IREX, ATRC, UNDP and OSCE.

The workshops aimed to share good practices on public information, participation, consultation and equal opportunities, define municipal competences and strengthen cooperation between municipalities.

"For citizens it is not clear which services their municipality provide," Sazan Ibrahimimi, director of AKM said, referring to public perception of municipal services.

According to NGO representatives, local government needs reformation.

The result of workshops will be published in a brochure, which will serve as a guideline for implementation of best practices by Kosovo municipalities.

For more information, visit www.komunat-ks.net

---

**Public services**

**Kosovo Municipalities to be Reformed, NGOs say**

Municipality officials and NGOs discussed public services of municipalities during five workshops held in April and May in five Kosovo regions, organized by Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) and supported by IREX, ATRC, UNDP and OSCE.

The workshops aimed to share good practices on public information, participation, consultation and equal opportunities, define municipal competences and strengthen cooperation between municipalities.

"For citizens it is not clear which services their municipality provide," Sazan Ibrahimimi, director of AKM said, referring to public perception of municipal services.

According to NGO representatives, local government needs reformation.

The result of workshops will be published in a brochure, which will serve as a guideline for implementation of best practices by Kosovo municipalities.

For more information, visit www.komunat-ks.net

---

**NGO funding opportunity**

**Swiss Contact Supports Agro Business and Tourism in the Dukagjini Region of Kosovo**

The Swiss Contact office in Gjakova announced a tender in May for Kosovo NGOs to apply for projects in two sectors: agro business and tourism, under Women Business Development Project (WBDP) funded by Swiss Government.

WBDP aims to empower women economically through marketing and developing of services by local providers to women in the Dukagjini region. Financial contribution is maximum 4.000 € per project.

Deadline for application is June 11, 2007

For further information and application form, contact: 0390 24 290

---

**NGO announcement**

**Youth Initiative for Human Rights Offers Internships for Students**

The Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), office in Kosovo, has announced internships available for students and recent graduates during June-December 2007.

Interns will gain diverse experience while working at YIHR, engaging in a variety of activities while contributing to general office tasks. Through their work, interns will have opportunities to gain knowledge about human rights and advocacy issues; acquire and further put into practice the knowledge they have acquired during their studies or professional careers; and have the opportunity to attend different events as well as make new contacts.

For descriptions of general requirements, duties and responsibilities, the duration of internships and application instructions, call: 038 248 509 or email: ksoffice@yihr.org