UN ASSOCIATION OF FINLAND

The UN Association of Finland was founded in 1954. It has 65 member organizations and some individual members. The office is situated in Helsinki with 5 permanent employees and a few interns. The UN Association of Finland:

- educates about global responsibility and possibilities of influence
- provides information about the UN and its actions
- influences Finnish UN policies

In order to fulfill its purpose, the Finnish UN association organizes meetings, seminars, courses and presentations, provides information and publications on different UN activities.

ADVOCACY:

In the spring of 2013 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is preparing a new UN Strategy and the multilateral development office is doing an evaluation on multilateral cooperation. These two documents will guide the national UN policies for the coming years and are in heart of our advocacy work. From UN issues naturally POST -2015 agenda with rights-based approach to development, climate change, human security, indigenous people and strengthening CSO participation are the main themes.

TRAINING PROGRAMS:

In 2013-2014 (2015) we implement a training program on “Civil society capacity-building: getting familiar with UN processes and transnational advocacy work” together with UNA Tanzania and Wfuna. This project is based on the findings of our previous project on “Strengthening Marginal Voices in the UN Climate Change Process”. The objective of the project is to increase the advocacy work of the UNA's and help them by building their capacity in transnational advocacy work. The project is based on peer to peer learning method and we will organise two thematic training workshops per year on the following themes:

1. Training on effective advocacy work in UN processes, Dar es Salaam, 11th-17th of March
2. Climate change, resource scarcity and human security in the Arctic area, Helsinki 20th-21st of April 2013.
3. Women, peace and security: peer-to-peer learning as a tool to make the action plans work, DAR October 2013
4. Indigenous people and sustainable development: making the most out of the Indigenous Peoples' World Summit held in conjunction with UN General Assembly in 2014; Finland March 2014
5. Creating disability inclusive development agenda for 2015 and beyond, East Africa October 2014
7. From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals with strong civil, 2015 NY.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN:

UNA-Finland plan to implement a nationwide outreach campaign in 2014- 2015 to raise awareness on UN and sustainable development. 2014 is the 60th anniversary of UNA and 2015 70th anniversary of UN and Finnish membership in it. A national UN competition will be implemented in schools and later on published in the main newspapers website as a web-game on UN. We expect to have at least 100 schools attending the competition and thousands of individuals participating in web. The results of the competition will be analysed and used later to advocate better inclusion of UN in the national education policies.