

Working Group on UN Studies

NEWS – May 25, 2007

Dear All,

the ACUNS annual meeting in NYC is approaching, and we would like to seize the opportunity to provide you with an update on our activities:

1. the new online community “UN Studies” at IGLOO;
2. next steps: launching the working group & initial discussion in NYC;
3. logistical information on the ACUNS annual meeting in NYC.

1. We have set up an **online community “UN Studies” at IGLOO**, which will function as the primary information pool and communication basis for the working group. We advert that it is still in a provisional status and open to the contribution of your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to take a look at the website at www.igloo.org/unstudies and to share the link with others that might be interested.

The **community includes**:

- *homepage / welcome*
- *about us / background and purpose of this project*
- *calendar / details about the 2007 ACUNS annual meeting*
- *issue groups / our main working & discussion area. We have set up four initial issue groups where members can discuss and exchange ideas on the topic of their choice.*
- *library / for group documents such as newsletters and issue-group specific content*
- *member directory / members’ (IGLOO) profiles*

Registration. Please let us know, if you would like to register as an official member, and we will send you an invitation by email. At the moment, all features are public. We can decide together whether we wish to turn the issue-group and library sections into private domains that can only be accessed by community members.

Feedback. As was mentioned at the beginning, the online community is a work in progress and far from being complete. We are thankful for any comments and suggestions in order to improve and expand our site.

2. Initial discussion on UN Studies at the ACUNS annual meeting and launch of the working group. To kick off the working group, we first wish to discuss with you our common vision, goals and agenda for the coming year - before we start our concrete work on specific issues and problems by means of the new online community. The ACUNS annual meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for all those interested to meet in person, and to tackle broader questions such as:

- (Why) Do we need UN Studies? Who needs UN Studies?
- What are key contents and features of possible UN Studies?
- What do we wish to accomplish within our working group?
- What kind of projects could help us achieve our targets?

Besides the workshop panel on future UN Studies, we have arranged for extra space to meet in person. Our arrangements for NYC in further detail:

Workshop panel. The broader discussion will take place in the workshop panel #10: “Tackling Future UN Studies – Views of the next UN generation”, on Friday, June 8, from 2pm until 3.30pm in room 9205 at the conference site (the Graduate Center). You are welcome to join this discussion round.

However, we are aware that you might be presenting or interested in other panel sessions that will take place at the same time. Furthermore, the conference agenda will not allow for ample time to discuss the working group’s terms and agenda after the panel sessions on Friday afternoon.

Working group meeting. For these reasons, we propose to meet in person prior to the official opening of the conference on June 6, during the registration period. We have reserved meeting space at the Ralph Bunch Institute on **Wednesday, June 6, from 4.30 until 5.30 pm in the conference room 5208.03** on the fifth floor of the Graduate Center.

Please let us know, if it is probable for you to attend this meeting!

Reporting back to non-attendees. For all those, that will not be able to attend the annual meeting: We will provide you with a report so that you are fully informed and able to join the discussion.

We look forward to hopefully seeing you in New York and to launching our discussion about UN Studies.

Best wishes,

Julia and Henrike