

NEWSLETTER

April 2014

I. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CoNGO

Dear Colleagues in the wide CoNGO constituency:

I am glad to send you a further CoNGO E-NEWSLETTER, once more prepared by our competent intern Jin Woo Kim from Kyung Hee University, Seoul. I thank him and his University for participating effectively in CoNGO's communications and outreach activities, and for thus helping to shoulder some of the workload of the CoNGO Offices that for financial reasons have to function without full-time staff.

That of course leads me directly to once more underline to CoNGO members that CoNGO services need Members' Input and Support. "Input" includes that you send to the Secretariat your news, reports, convocations, minutes, research items, personnel changes, policy decisions and any other information that should be known to the wider constituency. "Support" includes that you pay your membership dues on time and in full; that you offer practical assistance (for example, interns for short or longer term periods); that you forward ideas and suggestions; and that you consider making a supplementary voluntary contribution in cash or kind.

The NEWSLETTER you are about to read is an excellent example of why Members' input and support are so vital to achieving our common goals and tasks. The Newsletter touches on a large range of UN System activities (GEF, HRC, CSW, UNHCR, UNRISD...) and illustrates opportunities for civil society to interact with and influence the discussions and decision-making of all parts of the UN System.

You will note in one of the articles a quote from the UN Secretary-General saying that "Civil society is an indispensable part of the United Nations". Note the terminology: we are not some appendage to the UN, we are not an afterthought, we are not a mere implementor of intergovernmental decisions and policies. No, we are part of the United Nations. On behalf of its members CoNGO has been advancing and advocating that concept for many decades, usually in discreet and perhaps even unseen ways. There are uncounted year-round actions by CoNGO, including its Substantive Committees, that fulfil the purposes and aims of CoNGO as defined in its Rules, notably "strengthening the contributions which NGOs can make to promoting the principles, purposes and effectiveness of the UN and its related agencies and programmes".

Those contributions cover an immense range of action areas, some of which are also referred to in this Newsletter (for example: youth, environment, human rights, ageing, social policy, military expenditure and more). When CoNGO members reflect together, consult together, work together, our influence is greater, more meaningful, more lasting. I encourage you to use this and future CoNGO Newsletters as tools to promote WORKING TOGETHER.

The recent CoNGO General Assembly did me the honour of re-electing me as President of CoNGO for a second three-year term. I shall be at your service to implement that concept of Working Together.

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO 2011-2017

II. SECRETARIAT

CoNGO General Assembly

Resolution on UN High Commissioner for Future Generations

The recent CoNGO General Assembly unanimously adopted the following resolution;

"CoNGO calls on Member States of the United Nations to adopt the UN Secretary-General's recommendations creating an institutional mechanism for Future Generations, with a UN High Commissioner for Future Generations as the strongest option, in order to ensure a long term policy coherence and safeguard the needs of future generations."

III. CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

June 30, 2014: Youth Citizen Entrepreneurship Competition

A Global Initiative To Empower Young Entrepreneurs And Innovators For Positive Change.

Young people from all regions of the world between the ages of 15 and 30 have now the great opportunity to enter the YOUTH CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMPETITION at <http://www.youth-competition.org> and submit their best ideas and projects. The deadline for entries is *30 JUNE, 2014*.

Winners will be invited to the award ceremony at the Entrepreneurship Summit in Berlin in October 2014, where they will present their ideas and projects to an international audience.

Competition registrants have the opportunity to receive a free online training at the Entrepreneurship Campus, and to get their entries brushed up by peers and prospective experts. Entries are subject to global public voting and commenting.

The Youth Citizen Entrepreneurship Competition is a new international initiative co-organized by the GOI PEACE FOUNDATION, STIFTUNG ENTREPRENEURSHIP and the UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO). It provides a global platform for youth entrepreneurs and innovators who aspire to create positive change in their communities and the world.

WORLD GUIDE TO FOUNDATIONS 2014

Fully revised for 2014, the WORLD GUIDE TO FOUNDATIONS covers foundations, trusts, charitable and grant-making NGOs, and other similar not-for-profit organizations of the world. It provides a comprehensive picture of third sector activity on a global scale, listing 30,000 foundations in 115 countries.

In the main section, foundations are grouped according to country and, within countries, the entries are arranged alphabetically. The entries provide the following details: name of the organization, postal address, email and internet addresses as well as telephone and fax numbers, date of establishment and the aims and function of the organization, where appropriate, as well as its principal activities: projects and programmes, etc. Restrictions on grants are listed along with the geographical area of activity, finances, key executives and trustees of the organization.

2 Volumes. 1,000 pages.
US \$595.00 including delivery
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To purchase the WORLD GUIDE TO FOUNDATIONS 2014, please contact:

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IV. UN NEWS & UPCOMING UN EVENTS

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

Record funding for the Global Environment Facility

In April, 30 donor countries pledged US\$ 4.43 billion for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support developing countries' efforts over the next four years to prevent degradation of the global environment.

"Today's decision is a powerful signal from the global community about the importance of urgently reversing the negative environmental trends in order to ensure a sustainable future for everybody", said Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson of the GEF. "I am extremely encouraged by the broad coalition that has come together behind the belief in GEF's ability to play a critical role in helping achieve this transformation."

The funding will support projects in more than 140 countries to tackle a broad range of threats to the global environment, including climate change, deforestation, land degradation, extinction of species, toxic chemicals and waste, and threats to oceans and freshwater resources. The GEF is the main global mechanism to support developing countries to take action to fulfill their commitments under the world's major multilateral environmental agreements. Donors agreed to new financing in support of the Minamata convention on Mercury that was signed in 2013, bringing to five the total number global environmental conventions that the GEF serves.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) unites 183 countries in partnership with international organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. The GEF provides funding for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants.

Since 1991, the GEF has achieved a strong track record providing \$12.5 billion in grants and leveraging \$58 billion in co-financing for over 3,690 projects in over 165 countries. Through its Small Grants Programme (SGP), the GEF has also made more than 16,000 small grants directly to civil society and community based organizations, totaling \$653 million.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

"The promotion and protection of civil society space"

During the 25th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in March 2014, a panel discussion was held on the importance of "the promotion and protection of civil society space."

"Civil society actors must be able to do their work freely, independently, safe from fear, retaliation or intimidation. This requires collective action to denounce reprisals and defend free voices and protect those targeted," said the UN Secretary-General, referring to civil society as "an indispensable part of the United Nations".

"We must expand the space for civil society to meaningfully participate and contribute," he added in a video statement screened at a discussion on the promotion and protection of civil society space, in the context of the Human Rights Council's 25th session.

"Civil society actors around the world face risks ranging from threats and intimidation to horrible reprisals, even killings", said UN Human Rights Deputy High Commissioner, Flavia Pansieri at a discussion on the promotion and protection of civil society space. "From the NGO who is prohibited from receiving funding to the whistle-blower who is imprisoned for revealing corruption... we must work to protect civil society from such practices," she said.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, Frank La Rue, added that international bodies and governments alone cannot achieve the fulfilment of the protection and promotion of human rights without the full participation of civil society. "Civil society is the crucial element that guarantees that rights will be protected," he said.

"We are not talking about special rights for civil society, but about human rights that we defend for everyone...There should not be any special restrictions applied to civil society. It makes me worried if I see legislation that tries to limit the way people can organize freely or get funding for those associations because then it limits a legitimate, open and transparent activity which is organized for the defense of human rights," La Rue added, stressing that everyone has a right to defend human rights.

This interactive panel discussion was the first formal discussion in the Human Rights Council on the issue of civil society space as a human rights concern. In an effort to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities, international sign language interpretation and captioning was provided and webcasted.

The webstory can be consulted at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Protectingcivilsocietyspacetoguaranteehumanrights.aspx>

UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

58th Session, March 2014

In its Agreed Conclusions, the UN Commission on the Status of Women had the following to say on civil society organizations;

"The Commission acknowledges the major contributions made by civil society, including women's and community-based organizations and feminist groups, in placing the interests, needs and visions of women on national, regional and international agendas."

The Commission asked for "Increased resources and support for grassroots, local, national, regional and global women's and civil society organizations to advance and promote gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls."

The Commission asked for "the effective participation of women's and youth and other relevant civil society organizations in the design, continued implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies to achieve the MDGs and take into account their views in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda."

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

UNHCR has launched an improved version of the UNHCR Protection Manual: a Compilation of Law, UNHCR Guidance and Policy Papers, and Other Documents Related to International Protection. The Protection Manual serves as a source of authoritative guidance and as a reference tool for UNHCR staff and external stakeholders. The new version of the Protection Manual is available through a link in Refworld.

For more information:

www.refworld.org

www.refworld.org/protectionmanual.html

UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 14: Abuse of Older Persons

Population ageing in UNECE member States has given rise to fears that abuse of older persons may increase in its incidence, prevalence and complexity. Stereotypes may provide the breeding ground for abuse in society. Given the taboo attached to the topic, abuse and neglect are often underreported. Older people may be silent for fear of exposing a family member, losing services or being institutionalized. Therefore, there is a lack of reliable internationally comparable data to evaluate the phenomenon.

Introduction

Abuse of older persons is a major societal problem that often goes undetected. Although not a new phenomenon, the speed of population ageing worldwide has given rise to fears that abuse of older persons, too, may increase in its incidence, prevalence and complexity. Globally, the number of cases of elder maltreatment is projected to increase as many countries have rapidly ageing populations whose needs may not be met easily due to resource constraints(WHO Regional Office for Europe 2011: viii).

Elder abuse, including neglect seems to lead to higher dependence in performing activities of daily living, increased emergency room visits, higher rates of mortality, and self-destructive behaviours in abused elders which can even result in suicide. For older people, the consequences of maltreatment can be especially serious because their bones are more brittle and convalescence takes longer. At the societal level, abuse is related to higher direct costs related to health care, case detection and staff training, as well as indirect costs related to loss of social capital and the reduced ability of people to productively contribute to society.

Conclusions and recommendations

The importance of elder abuse as a policy issue has been acknowledged for some time now. Yet, the phenomenon can be expected to grow in numbers and diversity. Some countries have already developed successful approaches to preventing and responding to abuse of older persons. This Policy Brief has tried to draw on their experiences to the benefit of other countries that may wish to follow suit. Given the complexity of the issue, countries need to pursue a holistic approach, establishing integrated policy frameworks and institutional set-ups. There should be an emphasis on prevention while not neglecting remedial legal and therapeutic interventions. Overall, a continuum of service options needs to be provided, that balances the trade-off between safety and freedom (Nerenberg 2008: 241). Some principles to guide development and implementation of best practices are worth taking into account:

- Include perspectives of older adults and victims in policy development and evaluation
- Use a client-centred approach (not “one size fits all”)
- Consider gender, family violence, and intergenerational approaches
- Be sensitive to variations in language, culture, ethnicity, religion
- Ensure coordination and integration across professional organizations
- Ensure clear policies and procedures across all organizations that deal with seniors
- Ensure high levels of knowledge of these issues among all professionals working with seniors
- Ensure accountability and optimal information sharing, taking into account the need to obtain consent and respecting confidentiality laws
- Increase equal access to and use of available community resources and supports (Stolee et al. 2012: 185).

The Policy Brief has been based on a thorough analysis of the scientific research available on the topic. The research itself points to the many aspects of the issue requiring further study and better data collection. In particular, better cross-national data collection is needed to have a better overview of development trends. Surveillance and epidemiological studies that identify risk factors and vulnerable groups are a prerequisite for targeted screening and outreach programmes. More systematic evaluation of interventions and their effectiveness in different contexts would also be desirable. Few studies have evaluated interventions with rigorous randomized control trial designs, and some evaluations have shown relatively frequent recurrence of abuse after interventions, which can be seen as an indicator of their lack of effectiveness (Stolee et al. 2012: 184; Ploeg et al. 2009: 206-207).

To read the full document:

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Policy_briefs/ECE-WG-14.pdf

UNRISD's "Beyond 2015" Brief No.1

Combating Poverty and Inequality

A set of social development goals agreed by world leaders at the Millennium Summit placed poverty reduction at the heart of the international development agenda. Ongoing crises, and the social unrest they generate, have now forced inequality into the centre of attention of national and global leaders. The level and pattern of inequality within and between countries is now widely recognized as the critical problem—hindering inclusive growth, undermining social cohesion and acting as a barrier to poverty reduction and thus the achievement of the MDGs. UNRISD research findings, based on an extensive inquiry that examined poverty and inequality from a developmental and social policy perspective, provide key lessons that need to underpin a transformative development agenda beyond 2015.

To read the full document:

[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=C7515ADB78142BADC1257B08004CA838&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpAuxPages\)/C7515ADB78142BADC1257B08004CA838/\\$file/01%20-%20Combating%20Poverty%20and%20Inequality.pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=C7515ADB78142BADC1257B08004CA838&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/C7515ADB78142BADC1257B08004CA838/$file/01%20-%20Combating%20Poverty%20and%20Inequality.pdf)

UNRISD's "Beyond 2015" Brief No.2

Inequalities and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Income inequalities between and within countries have worsened in recent decades. Gender inequalities are narrowing at a snail's pace. Citizenship and location continue to determine life chances, despite the increasing integration of economies. Policy instruments to promote equality of outcome have largely been neglected in the name of approaches that claim to create "equality of opportunity". This has failed to stem the tide of inequality. Current social discontent and distrust of government highlight the urgency of addressing inequality head-on: it should be high on the post-2015 development agenda, both as a goal in itself and reflected in targets for other goals.

To read the full document:

[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=ACFC5542FBD29F44C1257B08005902E4&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpAuxPages\)/ACFC5542FBD29F44C1257B08005902E4/\\$file/02%20-%20Inequalities.pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=ACFC5542FBD29F44C1257B08005902E4&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/ACFC5542FBD29F44C1257B08005902E4/$file/02%20-%20Inequalities.pdf)

UNRISD's "Beyond 2015" Brief No.3

Social Policy and Employment: Rebuilding the Connections

With concerns continuing to mount about the persistently high levels of unemployment and informal/nonstandard employment stemming from the global economic crisis, recent debates on the social protection floor suggest that social policies remain high on the global agenda. But what are the connections between social policy and employment? This brief argues that over the past three decades these links have been weakened in both policy formulation and actual outcomes. It is high time that their connections are recognized for policy purposes. The post-2015 development agenda provides an opportune moment to reconnect social policy and employment.

To read the full document:

[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=AEB4A2E095603CCCC1257B09004A005E&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpAuxPages\)/AEB4A2E095603CCCC1257B09004A005E/\\$file/03%20-%20Social%20Policy%20and%20Employment.pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=AEB4A2E095603CCCC1257B09004A005E&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/AEB4A2E095603CCCC1257B09004A005E/$file/03%20-%20Social%20Policy%20and%20Employment.pdf)

UNRISD's "Beyond 2015" Brief No.4

Social Drivers of Sustainable Development

Persistent poverty, growing inequalities, shrinking environmental limits and market volatility threaten the social and economic gains made since the turn of the millennium. A new development agenda will need to look behind the symptoms to tackle the structural causes or drivers of poverty, inequality, social injustice and environmental degradation in order to create conditions for an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable future.

Strategies for inclusive and green economic growth dominate current discussions about a sustainable development agenda. This brief focuses on often neglected drivers of development in the social domain, highlighting their inseparability from economic, environmental and political change processes. It points to a number of policy areas that have been shown to underpin transformative social change, and identifies key social drivers that are essential for catalyzing progress towards sustainable development.

Sustainable development is necessarily “people-centred and planet-sensitive” (Bali Communiqué of the High-Level Panel, 28 March 2013), guided by values of equal rights and social justice, enabled by proactive states and well-functioning institutions, and shaped through the participation of empowered populations. To be socially sustainable, development must deliver material well-being, including good health, education, and access to the goods and services necessary for decent living; and social, cultural and political achievements, such as a sense of security, dignity, and the ability to be part of a community through recognition and representation. All of these are inseparable from the environmental resources necessary to sustain life, health and well-being.

To read the full document:

[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=BC60903DE0BEA0B8C1257C78004C8415&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpAuxPages\)/BC60903DE0BEA0B8C1257C78004C8415/\\$file/04%20-%20Social%20Drivers%20of%20Sustainable%20Development.pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=BC60903DE0BEA0B8C1257C78004C8415&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/BC60903DE0BEA0B8C1257C78004C8415/$file/04%20-%20Social%20Drivers%20of%20Sustainable%20Development.pdf)

UNRISD's "Beyond 2015" Brief No.5

Social and Solidarity Economy: A New Path to Sustainable Development

Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is an approach to development that addresses the structural causes of poverty and unsustainable development associated with market-centred growth strategies and skewed power relations. It encompasses a broad and diverse range of organizations and enterprises that have explicit social and often environmental objectives. How can SSE approaches enrich debates on a new development paradigm beyond 2015?

The term social and solidarity economy refers to a broad range of organizations that are distinguished from conventional for-profit enterprise and informal economy by four core features: they put social, and often environmental, objectives before profit; they involve cooperative and associative relations and forms of democratic management; they espouse values of solidarity, sharing and caring; and they are inclusive and rooted in the community.

SSE fosters economic dynamism, social and environmental protection and sociopolitical empowerment, all of which are essential components of the integrated approach needed to achieve sustainable development goals. By supporting SSE, policy makers can provide an enabling environment to facilitate collective action for both economic and political empowerment. SSE highlights the importance of incorporating values, practices and institutions associated with cooperation, association, solidarity, reciprocity and redistribution into development policy.

To read the full document:

[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=80F00ACC25896BDAC1257CA10056B7D2&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpAuxPages\)/80F00ACC25896BDAC1257CA10056B7D2/\\$file/05%20-%20SSE.pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=80F00ACC25896BDAC1257CA10056B7D2&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/80F00ACC25896BDAC1257CA10056B7D2/$file/05%20-%20SSE.pdf)

V. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Council of Europe recognizes older people's human rights and fundamental freedoms

Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)2

Strasbourg, 19 February 2014 - The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a recommendation to governments aiming at ensuring that older persons fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed in the European Convention on Human Rights.

The recommendation sets out a number of principles to be followed and gives examples of good practices that can help governments adopt appropriate measures promoting also respect for the inherent dignity of the aged. The text adopted underlines the importance of ensuring that older people enjoy their rights and freedoms without discrimination on any grounds, including age.

“They are entitled to lead their lives independently, in a self-determined and autonomous manner” reads the text sent to governments, stressing that this encompasses the right to take independent decisions on all issues which concern them, such as those regarding their property, income and finances, place of residence or all health related issues. Any limitations to these should be proportionate to each specific situation and provided with effective safeguards to prevent abuse and discrimination.

Inspired by the Accompanying Guide of the European Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in need of Long-term Care and Assistance developed in 2010 by the Eustacea project, the Recommendation is completed by a list of good practices submitted by Member States and civil society, as well as an Explanatory Memorandum.

To read the full document:

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2162283&Site=COE&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Cameroonian Martin Chungong has been elected as the new Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the first African to hold the post in its 125-year history. Chungong, who is the current IPU Deputy Secretary General, will take over from Anders B. Johnsson who officially retires at the end of his fourth mandate on 30 June, 2014.

Chungong had worked in the Cameroonian parliament for 14 years before joining IPU in 1993. His career at the Organization has focused on developing and leading programmes aimed at strengthening parliaments by being more modern, representative and effective institutions that are better able to fulfill their democratic mandate.

VI. NEWS

April 14, 2014: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute(SIPRI) released its new "Fact Sheet: Trends in world military expenditure, 2013."

World military expenditure totalled \$1.75 trillion in 2013, a fall of 1.9 per cent in real terms since 2012, according to figures released by SIPRI. The fall in the global total comes from decreases in Western countries, led by the United States, and despite increases in all other regions. In fact, military spending in the rest of the world excluding the USA increased by 1.8 per cent.

The document also revealed that the next three highest spenders—China, Russia and Saudi Arabia—all made substantial increases, with Saudi Arabia leapfrogging the United Kingdom, Japan and France to become the world's fourth largest military spender. China, Russia and Saudi Arabia are among the 23 countries around the world that have more than doubled their military expenditure since 2004.

To read the full document:

<http://books.sipri.org/files/FS/SIPRIFS1404.pdf>

April 1-3, 2014: The Social Forum was held, focusing on "the rights of older persons."

The Social Forum was held in Geneva from April 1 to 3 2014. Experts from United Nations agencies, governments, national human rights institutions, academic institutions and civil society organizations from different regions of the world discussed the main challenges to the full enjoyment of human rights by older persons and offered examples of good practices in the protection and promotion of the human rights of older persons.

The Forum included an opening session with opening remarks by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the President of the Human Right Council, and Chairperson of

the Social Forum to focus on (a) the main challenges to the full enjoyment of human rights of older persons; (b) age discrimination and ageism; (c) the rights to health, work and social security of older persons; and (d) violence against and abuse and neglect of older persons. There were also fruitful discussions about the following topics: the human rights of older persons, ageism and age discrimination, older persons and the right to health, the rights to social security and to work, and so forth.

More information about the Forum will be available on the following website:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/SForum/Pages/SForum2014.aspx>

VII. CALENDAR

2014

International Conference on Population and Development+20

<http://icpdbeyond2014.org/>

International Year of Family Farming

<http://www.family2014.org/home.php>

May

5-9: Open Working Group Negotiations on SDGs –Third Meeting (New York, United States)

<http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/open-working-group-negotiations-on-sdgs-third-meeting/>

12-23: UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 13th Session (New York, United States)

<http://undesadspd.org/IndigenousPeoples/UNPFIIISessions/Thirteenth.aspx>

12-16: Global Forum on Migration and Development (Stockholm, Sweden)

<https://www.gfmd.org/en/gfmd-2012/key-2013-2014-activities>

19-24: Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly (Geneva, Switzerland)

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/governance/wha/en/>

June

2-6: Open Working Group Negotiations on SDGs – Fourth Meeting (New York, United States)

<http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/open-working-group-negotiations-on-sdgs-fourth-meeting/>

10-13: World Summit on the Information Society - WSIS+10 High Level Event (Geneva, Switzerland)

<http://www.itu.int/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/>

23-27: United Nations Environment Assembly (Nairobi, Kenya)

<http://climate-l.iisd.org/events/un-environmental-assembly-of-unep/>

June - July

23 June - 18 July: Substantive Session of UN ECOSOC (New York, United States)
<http://post2015.iisd.org/events/2014-substantive-session-of-ecosoc/>

July

[TBD]: Fourth Development Cooperation Forum (New York, United States)
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/2014dcf.shtml>

14-18: Open Working Group Negotiations on SDGs –Fifth Meeting (New York, United States)
<http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/open-working-group-negotiations-on-sdgs-fifth-meeting/>

August

27-29: UN Department of Public Information-NGO Conference(New York, United States)
<http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/conference/>

September

1-4: Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, SIDS (Apia, Samoa)
<http://www.sids2014.org/>

22: UNGA Special Session on ICPD Beyond 2014 (New York, United States)
<http://icpdbeyond2014.org/key-events/view/15-icpd-beyond-2014-review-timeline>

22-23: UN General Assembly High Level Plenary Meeting serving as a World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (New York, United States)
<http://wqip2014.org/world-conference-on-indigenous-peoples-september-2014>

23: 2014 Climate Summit, organized by UN Secretary-General (New York, United States)
<http://climate-l.iisd.org/events/2014-climate-summit/>

October – November

20 October-7 November: International Telecommunications Union, Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, Korea)
<http://www.itu.int/en/plenipotentiary/2014/Pages/default.aspx>

November

10-12: World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, organized by UNESCO (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan)

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/events/calendar-of-events/education-global-conferences/>

21-24: CIVICUS International Civil Society Week (Johannesburg, South Africa)

<http://www.civicus.org/index.php/get-involved-128/2014-04-25-05-16-07/civil-society-week>

2015

70th Anniversary of the United Nations Organization (1945-2015)

World Conference on Women-Beijing+20

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/world-conferences-on-women>

World Summit on Social Development-Copenhagen+20

<http://undesadspd.org/CalendarofEvents.aspx>

April

12-17: 7th World Water Forum (Daegu · Gyeongbuk, Korea)

<http://worldwaterforum7.org/en>