



CoNGO COMMUNICATION No.20 – December 2016
SDGs Development Agenda 2030

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1. PRESIDENTIAL INTRODUCTION

A landmark: 20 Issues of CoNGO COMMUNICATION

I have been struck by some remarks in "JOURNEY TO EARTHLAND" by Paul Raskin, Founding President of The Tellus Institute (<http://www.tellus.org>) and founding Director of The Great Transition Initiative (<http://www.greattransition.org>). The essence is as follows:

"The Policy Reform approach to shaping EARTHLAND reached a rhetorical crescendo at the 1992 Earth Summit, but then faded in the torrent of globalization that followed. The recently-adopted UN 2030 Development Agenda returns reform to the center of international discourse, although the Agenda's modest implementation commitments and business-almost-as-usual "green economy" framing may again clip the wings of its lofty goals."

"At first the SDGs seemed destined to become another toothless edict, lacking the political commitment and financial resources needed to convert good intentions into facts on the ground. However each jolt of the Rolling Crisis galvanizes reformers and brings forth new leaders. Most importantly, it is stirring popular movements demanding that the promise of 2015 be fulfilled. This cultural and political awakening...with its genesis in civil society activism, channels the public's growing impatience with leaders unwilling or unable to act forcefully."

Once again, a voice of sanity underscores the importance of SDG implementation commitments, and the role of civil society in defining and pressing for measurable results and for accountability. These are themes and concerns that constantly recur throughout the now 20 issues of CoNGO COMMUNICATION. The first four issues focussed on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and subsequent issues on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, converted into the SDGs and the 2030 Development Agenda.

CoNGO's constant preoccupation has been to provide NGOs of all origins and sizes with digestible information on the MDGs and now SDGs, in the context of the evolving Development Agendas (the origins of which of course go back over decades to Sir Robert Jackson, Lester Pearson and Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and more recent inspirers such as Wangari Maathai, Juan Somavia and Achim Steiner, to mention only a few).

For this particular information role, CoNGO regularly receives appreciation from NGOs around the world who simply do not have the resources or the access opportunities to join the accelerating carousel of SDG-related events at UN Headquarters. This week alone the New York calendar refers to planning for the "Our Oceans Summit" (SDG 14); for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; and to meetings on Green Infrastructure, on Building Sustainable Peace, on Mainstreaming Gender, on the Global Shelter Cluster. And this week the "NGO Major Group NY" has its regular coordination exchange meeting: this is one of the key information sources covering multiple facets of the innumerable New York and other agents and actors gravitating around the 2030 Development Agenda. There is a NGO Major Group Database: information from the "Operating Partner" at ngomajorgroupopny@gmail.com.

CoNGO Full and Associate <members please note: When you receive your 2017 invoice for

CoNGO membership, please pay promptly and fully - that is one essential way to ensure CoNGO can continue to provide its services in Communications and many other areas.

Cyril Ritchie
President of CoNGO

This is the last CoNGO COMMUNICATION processed by our Kyung Hee University intern Yujin Jo, who is shortly returning to Korea, and whom I thank most heartily. Yujin Jo has maintained the high standards of her KHU predecessors. I believe I may dare to quote from her farewell message to me: ""Three months working in CoNGO was a wonderful experience. Equipped with skills and experience I gained here, I will try my best to achieve my dream and make a better world. I will miss CoNGO and Geneva." This truly confirms the bedrock of all internships: a win-win situation for both parties. CR

2. UNITED NATIONS GUIDELINES FOR THE GRAPHICS ILLUSTRATING THE SDGs

The colourful and compelling visual graphics illustrating the SDGs (i.e., the SDG logo, the colour wheel and the 17 icons) are at the heart of the success of communications about the SDGs, and the icons have already been spread far and wide, helping to raise awareness and understanding of the Goals in all corners of the world.

The United Nations has issued Guidelines for the use of the SDG logo, including the colour wheel, and 17 icons. The Guidelines are aimed at UN System entities (which are allowed to include the UN logo in the graphics) as well as external partners, including Governments, NGOs, and the private sector (which should not include the UN logo). UN communications say this "describes the proper use of the SDG logo and icons".

The Guidelines -- as well as the SDG logo, colour wheel and 17 icons in all six official UN languages -- are now available at:

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>

Footnote from CR: Some people will consider this a bureaucratic own-goal by UN communications people. The inclusion of the UN logo in the graphics is, according to the Guidelines, only "proper" for UN entities, not for governments, NGOs and the private Sector. Since one of the central features of the SDGs is that they are initially United Nations Goals - now happily universal - most of us would wish that to be evident by the universal inclusion of the UN logo. We are after all rallying round the "UN SDGs" and making them our own. SDG graphics bereft of the UN logo are simply not so compelling. An error.

3. COOPERATIVES AND THE SDGs

Cooperatives - also known as cooperative societies and grouped in the International Cooperative Alliance - are an exceptionally promising channel for achieving the SDGs. This was the conclusion of a meeting of cooperative experts at UN.HQ in November 2016.

The United Nations defines cooperatives as “an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.” In the UN context, cooperatives are entities with a charter requiring them to adopt a mutual approach to achieve shared outcomes.

The central finding of the meeting was that the 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved without the work of the cooperatives sector.

Background material:

- The UN Secretary General Report 2015 on Cooperatives [1]
- Cooperatives and the Sustainable Development Goals: A contribution to the post-2015 development debate [2] prepared by Frederick O. Wanyama, among others.

The role cooperatives can play in addressing the global youth unemployment crisis was emphasized by the International Labour Organisation: cooperatives appeal to youth, including capacity for on-the-job training and internships as well as responsiveness to social and environmental needs.

The International Cooperative Alliance outlined the benefits of the inclusive characteristics of cooperatives for vulnerable groups including indigenous persons and older persons.

Cooperatives are an important link between food security, nutrition and agriculture, as was emphasized by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) since cooperatives provide farm workers with access to information, infrastructure, markets and resources to carry out their work successfully.

The Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions outlined the important financial role of mutual entities such as credit unions: unlike private banks, credit unions are not-for-profit institutions governed by a voluntary board. Instead of paying dividends to shareholders, they can invest portions of their surplus in projects like social and educational initiatives.

To learn more about UN work on cooperatives visit social.un.org/cooperatives [3]

Links:

[1] <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/2014/coopsegm/Schwettmann.pdf>

[2] <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1247ilo.pdf>

[3] <https://www.un.org/development/desa/cooperatives/>

4. "RIGHTS OF WAY: CHILD POVERTY AND ROAD TRAFFIC INJURIES IN THE SDGS"

Rights of way: Safe and sustainable mobility for children [1]
FIA FOUNDATION INITIATIVE (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile)

The FIA Foundation convened the Global Initiative on Child Health and Mobility [2]. The initiative provides a platform for commitment and action to address road traffic injuries and fatalities as a sustainable development priority, with a core goal – a safe and healthy journey to and from school for every child by 2030. It promotes an agenda that governments should put transport and urban planning at their core to protect children, their health, and their rights.

Partners UNICEF, UNEP, Save the Children, ODI, WRI, and the FIA Foundation are supporting rights of the child in the following ways:

- * Safe, accessible, low-carbon mobility to promote equity and combat poverty;
- * Clean air and a healthy environment;
- * The role of safe and health mobility in enabling the right to an education.

Promoting these rights helps achieve SDG targets 3.6, 3.9, 7.3, 11.2, 11.6, 11.7, and 13.

Beyond the statistics

UNICEF and the FIA Foundation released a report outlining priorities in a 'child first' agenda. The report, RIGHTS OF WAY: CHILD POVERTY & ROAD TRAFFIC INJURY IN THE SDGS [3], examines the impact of road traffic injuries on families living in poverty in low- and middle-income countries, and calls for a global policy response. Moving beyond the statistics, it puts a face to some of the nearly 3000 children killed or injured daily.

The report examines successful initiatives, reflected in its 'children first' agenda:

- * Ensure safe routes to school for all children, with walkable pavements, safe crossings, and effective vehicle speed management;
- * Ensure safe travel to school. Seatbelts and safety checks for school buses, seatbelts or appropriate child restraints in cars, helmets for motorcycle passengers;
- * Improve safety for all road users on high risk roads, meeting at least 3 star (out of 5) safety performance as measured by the International Road Assessment Programme;
- * Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists in urban planning, increasing investments in safe infrastructure for non-motorised transport to encourage active, low carbon, mobility;
- * Deploy and encourage pedestrian-friendly vehicle design and safety technologies, such as Autonomous Emergency Braking, which can mitigate or even stop a crash;
- * Encourage policies to reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality such as reducing sulphur levels in fuel (below 50ppm); particulate filters on vehicles; and improved vehicle fuel economy in line with Global Fuel Economy Initiative targets.

The Global Initiative advances this policy agenda as an SDG partnership encompassing advocacy,

research, and capacity building, and providing support and technical assistance to catalyze national coalition work. It prioritizes securing the financing and policy commitments to scale-up work on road traffic injuries and sustainable mobility, with the goal of a safe and healthy route to and from school for every child by 2030.

Links:

[1] http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/unsdn/~3/80R0mFq8iu0/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email

[2] <http://www.childhealthinitiative.org/>

[3] <http://www.fiafoundation.org/connect/publications/rights-of-way>

5. THE GREEN BELT MOVEMENT

Professor Wangari Maathai Honored in Nairobi

The Green Belt Movement is honored and humbled by the recognition of Wangari Maathai's tireless campaigns for a safe environment, through the renaming of the current Forest Road, in Nairobi, to Professor Wangari Maathai Road by the Nairobi City County.

Her efforts earned her numerous prestigious awards, and respect of millions who were inspired by her commitment to conservation, democracy, women's empowerment, the eradication of poverty, and civic engagement.

The work of Professor Maathai and the Green Belt Movement continues to stand as a testimony to the power of grassroots, proof that one person's simple idea - that a community should come together to plant trees, can make a difference. Her legacy truly lives on through the Movement which remains in the front-line of advocating for environmental conservation in Kenya, and making great progress on reclaiming and restoring forest land.

The Movement continues to expand its horizon to include community development work encompassing the arenas of environmental conservation, democracy, women's empowerment, community development, and conflict resolution, as Wangari envisioned.

Further information: communication@greenbeltmovement.org

6. ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

Global energy emissions are set to increase 30% by 2030

The INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA) estimates that energy related greenhouse gas emissions (mainly CO₂ and methane with some nitrous oxide) under national emissions targets (from the UN climate negotiations) are set to increase by a deadly 30% in 2030, with the emissions trajectory still increasing.

The IEA estimates this will lead to a 2.7°C global temperature increase by 2100 and over 3.0°C after 2100.

Going by IPCC AR5 projections, this will be calamitous to billions of people by 2050, to the future of all humanity by 2100 and almost all life after 2100, with today's 6th extinction event wiping out species at 1000 times the natural rate (S. Primm 2014). Much worse, these temperature increases are bound to trigger amplifying runaway carbon dynamics which would also be the end of almost all life.

Quotes from the IEA report, paragraph 1.3.1 '... EMISSIONS UNDER THE NDCS ARE ONE-THIRD HIGHER IN 2030 THAN THEY ARE TODAY, REACHING ALMOST 42 GIGATONNES OF CARBON DIOXIDE-EQUIVALENT (GTCO₂-EQ)'.

Quotes from the IEA report, paragraph 1.3.2 'GETTING TO 2°C FROM THE NDCS: THE BRIDGE SCENARIO AND BEYOND IEA ANALYSIS HAS STRESSED THAT LIMITING TEMPERATURE RISE TO 2°C WILL REQUIRE A PEAKING OF NEAR-TERM GLOBAL ENERGY-RELATED EMISSIONS AND A MARKED DECLINE THEREAFTER (E.G. THE 450 SCENARIO THROUGH 2030) WHICH IS IN LINE WITH THE AIMS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.'

More information:

<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cA2LSaJ4rVP2BpPzzPZLjFmMfMEmfl48iAXshqh6p-Ern4oESZz4EBEyyuysrS4pslZ70BTG95O9PoVSvV91BlicmrT7JXzskx3pa-3qY1n0UoLSgc6jzGYoiPabTA0Rg7d4-NNtylok3>

7. CALENDAR

NOTICE

1. The CoNGO Calendar is a service to the NGO constituency to enable each individual organization to determine, in good time, its possible or desired involvement in the events mentioned, in accordance with the organization's own statutory or programmatic focus.
2. The conferences and meetings listed in the CoNGO Calendar are not under the convening or invitational or access responsibility of CoNGO. They are listed for the information of readers, and any queries about any event should be addressed solely to the organizer of the event, not to CoNGO.

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

2016

2016-2025: United Nations "Decade for Action on Nutrition"

2017

March 6-7: PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION ON GREEN ECONOMY (PAGE), organized by UNEP, ILO, UNDP, UNIDO, UNITAR: 2nd PAGE Ministerial Conference (Berlin)
page@unep.org

May 22-26: UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Cancun, Mexico)
<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform>

June 5-9: United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. (UNHQ, NEW YORK)

Overarching theme of the Conference: Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

For more information:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/oceans/SDG14Conference>

July 10-19: HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF), (UNHQ , New York)
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

2018

Seventieth Anniversary of CoNGO !

March 1-3: CoNGO 26th General Assembly (Geneva)

UN-HABITAT: 9th World Urban Forum (WUF9) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
<http://unhabitat.org/kuala-lumpur-to-host-world-urban-forum-in-2018/>

2019

Centenary of the International Labour Organization