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**CoNGO COMMUNICATION No.16 - August 2015**

**Post-2015 development agenda**

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## **1. PRESIDENTIAL INTRODUCTION**

### **"TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"**

Well, folks, we're getting there!

Under the above title, the official final text for adoption at the UN Summit (New York, September 25-27, 2015) was issued on August 1. It is 29 pages long, and consists of 91 paragraphs, all full of determination, good sense, and promises for the achievement not just of the "world we want" called for by the Rio+20 Conference, but for the "world we need" called for by civil society.

While encouraging you ALL to read it ALL, I here quote paragraph 91, which of course will be a solemn engagement by Heads of State and Government:

"We affirm our unwavering commitment to achieving this Agenda and utilizing it to the full to transform our world for the better by 2030."

This is where civil society's role is more important than ever: Heads of State and Government, nation by nation, must be held to their promises, without procrastination, without backsliding or sideways shuffles, without weaseling interpretations of the commitments of the 2030 Agenda. Implementation and accountability will be banner causes for civil society advocacy as from September 27, 2015.

Many of us will remember that the Millennium Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government, itself a clarion promise of a better world, was entitled "We shall spare no effort". This time, citizens - individually and through their civil society organizations - must be alert and engaged from now on, to ensure that the ongoing requisite effort is actually made to "transform our world for the better".

The road since Rio+20 has been long and arduous, and so necessarily New York-centred that it has been difficult for civil society elsewhere to be in the act or even in the picture. I am glad to have received so many positive feedbacks from NGOs and CSOs around the world as to the usefulness to them of the previous 15 CoNGO COMMUNICATIONS on the Post-2015 Development agenda, helping to bridge information and involvement gaps. We shall be continuing this service on as regular a basis as our limited resources permit.

As the Post-2015 Development agenda, now the Transformative 2030 Agenda, moves into gear, there has been much discussion in New York in recent months as to the need/desirability of having a "secretariat or coordinating mechanism to facilitate interface with the UN". The interface talked of is that between the UN (Secretariat and Governments) and the broader Civil Society - in "New York jargon" the Major Groups and other Stakeholders (shortened everywhere, in traditional UN style, to MGoS).

Since CoNGO is one of the few bodies that has 67 years of experience of productively interfacing with the entire UN System, and since CoNGO is universal in its constituency and concerns, I trust CoNGO's know-how, networking and communications competencies can be of service as the 2030 Agenda experimentation moves ahead.

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This issue of CoNGO COMMUNICATION has again been prepared by Sinmyung Park, the most recent CoNGO intern from Kyung Hee University, Seoul. Sinmyung Park has been back in Korea since May, but has continued his devoted commitment to CoNGO. I once more thank him most warmly. Interns are indeed a living embodiment of civil society's values!

Cyril Ritchie  
President of CoNGO

## **2. SECRETARIAT**

### **WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) WSIS FORUM 2015 (May 2015): "Innovating Together"**

#### **Statement made by Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO**

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Sisters and Brothers of Civil Society:

From the time of the World Summit on the Information Society, in 2003 and 2005, a new era opened in cooperation between the United Nations System and Civil Society Organizations, well beyond the traditional relations between the UN and NGOs. WSIS had mechanisms for civil society cooperation and participation that were innovative, that were productive, and that have proved lasting. The top political leadership of WSIS declared - and implemented - the conviction that the world's newly-emerging Information Society should not be - and could not be - an affair for governments alone, nor for private business alone.

The world's people - through, for example, structured associations, think tanks, cooperatives, scientific and technical institutions, advocacy and activist groupings - were actors then on the world Information Society stage, and have so remained through the WSIS Follow-up process. I pay tribute to the International Telecommunications Union and its UN System partners, together with government leaders, for ensuring that the effectiveness of WSIS Follow-up was based on transparency and the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders.

Indeed, how could it have been otherwise, for INFORMATION and COMMUNICATIONS are basic to democracy, to the realization of human rights, to human well-being, to preparing a better life for future generations.

These participatory mechanisms, this participatory mind-set, are manifestly needed evermore as we move to the adoption and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. I recall and echo the public declaration made collectively just last week by a significant number of the independent experts of the UN Human Rights system who stated

"Civil society is integral in helping Governments find innovative solutions to complex developmental problems....It is essential that the principle of partnership with civil society, as well as the space for civil society to freely operate, are at the heart of the post-2015 framework....The promise that no-one be left behind cannot be met without full and free civil

society participation throughout the post-2015 process, from negotiation of the goals, targets and indicators to the monitoring and review of measures to achieve them."

Let us continue to innovate TOGETHER, and to act TOGETHER, in the spirit of that message, as we move to a Post-2015 world of Sustainable Development.

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

### **3. STATUS OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE, REPORT FOR 2014**

*Rising ocean temperatures are likely to have "major implications" for the development of climate change, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said.*

The majority of warming linked to soaring levels of greenhouse gas emissions was being stored in the upper and lower levels of the seas, it said. Sea-surface temperatures were "much warmer than average" across the north Pacific, southwest Pacific, Indian Ocean as well as the polar region of the North Atlantic. Last year was the hottest on record, with global average temperatures 0.57°C above the 1961-1990 average of 14°C.

Rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and an increase in ocean heat would likely have long term consequences for future generations, said WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud. It underlined the need for a global agreement to cut carbon dioxide emissions, he said, urging countries to act "before we run out of time". "Multiple lines of evidence – from mounting surface temperatures to shrinking glaciers, from sea-level rise to weather extremes – show that the climate is changing and that this is largely due to human activities," he said.

Rainfall in 2014 was comparable with previous years but there was a high incidence of flooding in parts of Europe, South East Asia and Africa. This was "consistent with an accelerated hydrological cycle driven by the additional energy trapped in the atmosphere by greenhouse gases", the WMO said. Extreme weather and changing climate patterns were increasingly affecting human well-being, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement accompanying the annual report. Tackling climate change and agreeing a global pact in Paris later this year were "among the great tests of our time", he said.

### **4. CoNGO COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, NEW YORK**

*Climate Change: Summary and Recommendations to Governments, 2015*

The human-caused global-warming trend of climate change is scientifically established. Human beings are not distinct from nature, but are part of nature, and are now affecting nature in an alarmingly negative way. Impacts from global warming are now being felt and will soon become far worse if we do not act substantially. Without action, all countries will be increasingly affected in a myriad of severe, adverse ways: economically, environmentally, militarily, politically, medically, and psychologically. Global stability is threatened. Though the poor will suffer the most, there is no safe haven for anybody.

Humane effective responses to global warming with an ethical and moral foundation require difficult equitable resolutions of conflicting national situations generated by different per-capita and total emissions (historical, current, and future), economic development, and energy requirements. Nevertheless the interests of all are intertwined. We need to become globally earth-centered, with respect for global human rights, reverence and compassion for living beings, with a light carbon footprint. We need dedicated, clear, decisive leadership and action to counter global warming by all governments, NGOs including corporations, and individuals. There is no alternative. Let not future generations, impacted by global warming, say of us, "They knew but did not act".

***Recommendations to Governments for Action on Climate Change***

1. Recognize that unmitigated climate change will produce widespread conflicts over food, water, and resources, with consequent population displacements and other devastating effects.
2. Adopt fair, ambitious, binding (FAB) climate agreements at COP21 enhancing the Copenhagen Accord, Cancun Agreements, Durban Platform, Doha Gateway, Warsaw Mechanism, Lima Call for Climate Action, and the Kyoto Protocol: greenhouse gas emissions at sustainable safe levels and penalties for excessive emissions.
3. Adopt adequate climate-risk-management mitigation/adaptation strategies as in the IPCC reports, a substantial price on carbon, and increased funding for non-fossil energy (solar, wind, fusion...).
4. Adopt and implement further adequate, equitable, and binding financial and technical commitments by developed to developing countries for mitigation, adaptation, and damage; with effective, gender-sensitive aid distribution, and joint cooperative responsibility. Priorities are:
  - **Security** (peace and avoiding armed conflicts, avoiding mass migrations).
  - **Social Justice, Intergenerational Equity, Environment Preservation.** Achieve: post-2015 Development Agenda; food, water, energy security; sustainable economic development, gender balanced; a livable world for our descendants. More support for women, children, small farmers, Island, Coastal, Indigenous peoples. Improve public health, mental health, education on climate change, environment. Include common but differentiated responsibilities, respective capabilities. Support non-intensive agriculture, sustainable forestry, conservation, humane animal treatment, ecosystems, and biodiversity; avoid extinctions. More women negotiators.



[www.ngoscd-ny.org](http://www.ngoscd-ny.org)

## **5. UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTERACTIVE HEARINGS FOR THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

In accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/244, the UN summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be held from 25 to 27 September 2015 in New York and convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly. The General Assembly, in operative paragraph 10 of its resolution 69/244, "requests the President of the General Assembly to organize, with early preparations and in the most effective and efficient way, and to preside over two days of informal interactive hearings, before June 2015, with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, major groups and the private sector, and requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings to be made available prior to the summit."

These hearings took place on 26-27 May at UN Headquarters in New York.

By request of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) facilitated a stakeholder Steering Committee for the hearings.

For more information about the post-2015 development agenda, please visit:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015>

## **6. PROPOSAL FOR THE NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

- 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere**
- 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture**
- 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**
- 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all**
- 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**
- 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**
- 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all**
- 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**
- 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive industrialization and foster innovation**
- 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries**
- 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**
- 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**
- 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact**
- 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**
- 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

16. **Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**
17. **Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

## **7. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL PROPOSES SIX ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS TO HELP STRUCTURE THE NEW AGENDA**

1. **Dignity:** to end poverty and fight inequalities
2. **People:** to ensure healthy lives, knowledge and the inclusion of women and children
3. **Prosperity:** to grow strong, inclusive and transformational economies
4. **Planet:** to protect our ecosystem for all societies and our children
5. **Justice:** to promote safe and peaceful societies, and strong institutions
6. **Partnership:** to catalyse global solidarity for sustainable development

## **8. POST-2015 Development Agenda – UNGA Summit, September 2015**

The following six themes are proposed by the UN co-facilitators of the Post-2015 process for the six interactive dialogues to be held during the September Post-2015 Summit, pursuant to UNGA resolution 69/244.

1. **Eradicating poverty in all its dimensions and addressing inequality**
2. **Tackling climate change and achieving more sustainable lifestyles**
3. **Building strong, inclusive and resilient economies**
4. **Promoting peaceful societies and strong institutions**
5. **A renewed global partnership and adequate means of implementation**
6. **Reviewing progress on SDG commitments; universality and differentiations**

## **9. UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR)**

### **Upcoming course on Climate Change Diplomacy**

UNITAR offers online and face-to-face courses on Multilateral Diplomacy. These courses are targeted to diplomats and government officials who are involved in inter-governmental negotiations, and professionals who are working in an international environment.

UNITAR offers fellowships and discounted fees for group bookings. Please contact UNITAR if you have any questions.

## **e-Learning course**

Climate Change Diplomacy: Negotiating Effectively under the UNFCCC: 21 September - 15 November 2015

This online course will develop participants' understanding of the climate change policy framework by building an appreciation of the science, causes and impacts of climate change, the history of the policy making process and the UNFCCC framework meanwhile preparing for COP21.

Registration:

<<https://www.unitar.org/event/climate-change-diplomacy-negotiating-effectively-under-unfccc-3>>

e-Learning courses--- UNITAR: +4122-917.8716

Send email: [mdp-elearning@unitar.org](mailto:mdp-elearning@unitar.org)

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<<https://www.youtube.com/user/UNITARHQ?feature=watch>>

## **10. 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

## **2015**

70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations Organization (1945-2015)

[http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48149#.U9oWsvl\\_vTo](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48149#.U9oWsvl_vTo)



## **September**

**September 25-27:** UN: High-level Summit on the SDGs (UN Headquarters, New York)  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit>

## **October**

**October 12-16:** Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) - Istanbul, Turkey  
12 - 13: GFMD Civil Society Days  
14: GFMD Common Space between Governments and Civil Society  
15 - 16: GFMD Government Days

## **November**

**November 2-6, 2015:**

Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption, Sixth Session.  
St. Petersburg, Russian Federation  
Information: UN Office on Drugs and Crime (ONODC) - [unodc@unodc.org](mailto:unodc@unodc.org)  
- [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)

**November 30-December 11:** COP 21 Climate Change Conference (Paris, France)  
<http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en>

## **2016**

### **March**

**March 14-18:** UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD):  
UNCTAD XIV - Lima, Peru

### **April**

**April 19-21:** UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Special Session on the world drug problem  
(United Nations, New York)  
Information: [unodc@unodc.org](mailto:unodc@unodc.org)

### **May**

**May 11-12:** UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: UN World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, Turkey)

<http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/>

**May 23-27:** UN Environment Assembly: Second Meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi, Kenya)  
<http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/second-meeting-of-the-un-environment-assembly/>

**July**

**July 25-27:** Third session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III: JAKARTA, Indonesia

**October**

**October 17-20:** the UN Commission on Human Settlements:  
Habitat III Conference - Quito, Ecuador

**2018**

UN-Habitat: 9<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum (WUF9)(Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

<http://unhabitat.org/kuala-lumpur-to-host-world-urban-forum-in-2018/>