



**CoNGO COMMUNICATION No.21 – March 2017**  
**SDGs Development Agenda 2030**

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## **1. PRESIDENTIAL INTRODUCTION**

When considering the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals for both the entire UN System and the entire NGO/Civil Society communities throughout the world, one cannot help but ask oneself: "Is the process going to be meaningful this time?" Or perhaps, and better: "How we we all make the process meaningful this time?"

It could be easy to be discouraged in today's uncertain world, where even some countries with a long history of democratic practice and civic participation seem to be sliding backwards - not only with an increasing place in until-now-democratic governments being taken by demagogues, but with NGOs and Civil Society being targeted for illegitimate restrictions and denunciation by the authorities in innumerable countries.

It is at such moments that it is important to recall and reaffirm that the Sustainable Development Goals represent a remarkable choice, challenge and opportunity for us all, and that the SDGs can - must - also be a means of strengthening or restoring democratic values and social justice. But on the condition that governments of all persuasions genuinely commit themselves to IMPLEMENTATION of the SDGs. It is implementation that will open closed doors of ignorance, poverty and repression. It is implementation - which is the business of all of us - that will give citizens an enhanced sense of having a meaningful place in their societies and of engagement with their own future.

So much of the wording of the SDGs actually has already appeared, only with changes of emphasis, in the outcomes of previous UN Conferences and Summits: for example, the World Food Conference of 1974, the World Summit on Social development of 1995, the UN Conference on Population and Development of 1995, the several World Women's Conferences, the several Least-Developed Countries Conferences, and of course the UN Millennium Summit of 2000 (see item 9 in this issue). The words in the outcomes were meaningful, the promises were exhilarating.

In every case, the world's NGOs, the world's citizens, have expected more determined IMPLEMENTATION, and have too often been disappointed. The SDGs bring together all the good developmental and justice issues and aspirations of the past and present, and constitute a plan and a promise for the future. Let governments rise to the challenge; let Civil Society rise to the challenge. Let us together advocate and act on the concept of IMPLEMENTATION at every meeting and every opportunity. Together we can achieve the world we want, and the world we need.

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

Note: I again thank our Kyung Hee University Intern, Yoojeong Jeong, now in her second month in the CoNGO Geneva Office, for putting together this issue of CoNGO COMMUNICATION. Our interns are invaluable! CR

## **2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) LAB**

An SDG Lab has been established at the United Nations Office at Geneva to support the implementation of Agenda 2030 by connecting stakeholders in and outside of Geneva, including New York and other UN stations.

The SDG Lab is described as a space where all stakeholders can share their challenges and successful practices in implementing Agenda 2030, through visual and oral communication tools. It will be "a connector, a convenor and an amplifier", where emerging ideas, policies and partnerships can be experimented. The SDG Lab Director is Ms Nadia Isler.

Information: [SDG-lab@un.org](mailto:SDG-lab@un.org)

## **3. SDG3 ON HEALTH ("Good Health and Well-being")**

### **MAPPING OF POTENTIAL CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS NETWORK**

In 2016, the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency, through its Global Programme Health (SDC.GPH) contacted CoNGO's President to chair a small committee overseeing an SDC.GPH project entitled MAPPING OF POTENTIAL CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS NETWORK, a project running from November 2016 to April 2017. Here are the parameters.

A. The Mapping Project has the goal to identify worldwide civil society partners that are working towards achieving the health ambitions of Agenda 2030, and that do or can participate in networks to influence the global health agenda, with particular relevance to the five components of the SDC.GPH. These are: Communicable Diseases (mainly Malaria and NTDs), Universal Health Coverage and Health Financing, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Determinants of Health, and Global Health Governance. CSOs/NGOs that generally engage in advocacy for health may also be included in the mapping.

B. The mapping is focussing on six regions corresponding to the areas covered by WHO Regional Offices, each of which is covered by a focal point person working in or with a CSO of the region. Each focal person has identified in the respective WHO region a list of at least 40 candidate NGOs/CSOs fulfilling the SDC criteria indicated above. Each focal person has collected data describing the work and achievements of these CSOs and has contributed to the analysis and evaluation and the assessment of capacities.

C. The final product will be submitted to SDC.GPH in April 2017. This final product will be a document that is composed of two parts: a. a summary of key findings regarding the identified CSOs (example: main field and theme of activity, international discussions taken part in, geographical focus, etc). This part will also comprise an analysis and recommendations of pertinence on possible common activities between SDC.GPH and a Partner CSO concerning global health governance, health diplomacy or position-taking at governing bodies of relevant organizations. b. the detailed findings of the CSO mapping exercise, that will allow SDC.GPH

users to compare the current capacities, strengths and scope of initiatives carried out by different stakeholder organizations.

D. The Project Team consists of representatives of several international CSOs/NGOs active in health. The costs of the Project, notably the engagement of analysts and the focal persons, are covered by SDC.GPH. CoNGO will receive a small percentage for its engagement, but of course the most important angle is the recognition by SDC of CoNGO's central role in civil society, and of our commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

#### **4. WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2017**

"Tobacco - a threat to development"

Each year May 31 is marked as World No Tobacco Day (WNTD), under the leadership of the World Health Organization (WHO). WNTD events and publications highlight the health and additional risks associated with tobacco use, and advocate for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption.

WNTD 2017 will demonstrate the threats that the tobacco industry poses to sustainable development in all countries, notably the health and economic well-being of citizens. It will propose measures that governments and the public should take to promote health and development by confronting the global tobacco crisis.

WHO underlines that all countries benefit from controlling the tobacco epidemic, thereby helping to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3, specifically target 3.4 calling for a one-third reduction globally by 2030 of premature deaths from noncommunicable diseases, including cardiovascular disease, cancers and chronic obstructed pulmonary disease. About 6 million people die from tobacco use every year, a figure that is predicted to grow to more than 8 million by 2030 without intensified action. Tobacco use burdens national economies through increased health-care costs and decreased productivity.

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, an international treaty with 180 Parties, guides the global fight against the tobacco epidemic.

Information:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2017/world-no-tobacco/en#>  
[www.unfairtobacco.org](http://www.unfairtobacco.org)

#### **5. SDG14: "LIFE BELOW WATER"**

The United Nations will convene an "Ocean Conference" at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. The Conference will be co-hosted by the Governments of Fiji

and Sweden. The Conference's goal is to be the game changer that will reverse the decline in the health of our ocean for people, planet and prosperity.

The Secretariat of the Ocean Conference is inviting stakeholders to share information about relevant Ocean Conference related meetings and events organized in the lead-up to the Conference, for inclusion in the Calendar of Events, available on the official Ocean Conference website at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/oceanconference/calendar> Details of suggested events, including title, venue, date & time, short description, and website link (if available) should be sent through the Conference Secretariat.

Contact: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/contact>.

The Ocean Conference website is under the Terms of Use of United Nations websites, available at: <http://www.un.org/en/sections/about-website/terms-use/index.html>

## **6. UN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FORUM**

The second annual "UN Science, Technology and Innovation Forum for the SDGs" will meet at UN.HQ on May 15 and 16, 2017. Its purpose is to discuss science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the SDGs.

The STI Forum will provide major input to the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), whose theme is "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". The HLPF 2017 will focus on six SDGs (1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14) in addition to SDG 17 that will be considered at each HLPF. The STI Forum will therefore also concentrate on those same SDGs.

NGOs and CSOs which wish to attend the STI Forum must register by completing a dedicated registration form at: Google Form (DEADLINE: 14 APRIL 2017).

More information about registration is available at:  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/TFM/STIForum/Registration>

## **7. CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS**

### **NGO MAJOR GROUP (New York)**

The NGO Major Group (NY) serving as successor to the NGO Major Group initiated by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED Rio 1992) is a focal point for information and interventions in the Agenda 2030 process, notably in regard to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

The NGO Major Group is facilitated by "Organizing Partners": a current list follows  
GLOBAL:  
Alice Odingo: [aaodingo@yahoo.com](mailto:aaodingo@yahoo.com)

Daniel Perell: ngomajorgroupopny@gmail.com

ASIA:

Beckie Malay: bekiemalay@yahoo.com

EUROPE:

Leida Rijnhout: Leida.rijnhout@foeeurope.org

AFRICA:

Masiwa Rusare: Masiwa@africanmonitor.org

Oyebisi Oluseyi: seyi@nnngo.org

Paul Okumu: Paul.okumu@africapatform.org

CARIBBEAN:

Shantal Munro-Knight: shantalmunro@gmail.com

NORTH AMERICA:

Soon-Young Yoon: fvp@ngocongo.org

PACIFIC:

Lani Vakatale: Lani@piango.org

The NGO Major group (NY) also operates through "Clusters". The current Cluster Leads are (please note, some of these leads are temporary)

HEALTH:

Soon-Young Yoon: YoonCSW@aol.com

Priya Kanayson: pkanayson@ncdalliance.org

Marianne Haslegrave: mh@commat.org

PEACE:

David Kirshbaum: palmediaproject@gmail.com

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:

Thomas Forster: thomasforster2@gmail.com

DISASTER:

Lucy Pearson: lucy.pearson@gndr.org

COMMONS/INTERLINKAGES

Lisinka Ulatowska: lisinka.ulatowska@gmail.com

HUMAN RIGHTS:

Kate Donald: kdonald@cesr.org

Savio Carvalho: Savio.Carvalho@amnesty.org

Information: ngomajorgroupopny@gmail.com

Telephone (Daniel Perell) +1 212 803 2500

## **8. PUBLICATION**

"GENDER, DEVELOPMENT, AND GLOBALIZATION: Economics as if all people mattered"

Authors: Lourdes Beneria, Günseli Berik, Maria S. Floro.

New York, Routledge, 2016. pp319

ISBN 978-0-415-53749-0

## **9. FROM THE ARCHIVES**

Some extracts, even more relevant today, from the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2000:

"We, heads of State and Government...have a collective responsibility to uphold the principle of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs.

We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty...we are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.

We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.

We will spare no effort to ensure that children and all civilian populations that suffer disproportionately the consequences of natural disasters, genocide, armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection so that they can resume normal life as soon as possible.

We solemnly affirm that the United Nations is the indispensable common house of the entire human family, through which we will seek to realize our universal aspirations for peace, cooperation and development. We therefore pledge our unstinting support for these common objectives and our determination to achieve them."

Footnote: Civil Society will need ever more to "spare no effort" to hold governments accountable for the fulfilment of their promises. IMPLEMENTING the SDGs would bring us nearer that point. CR

## 10. CoNGO SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEE

The CoNGO Substantive Committee "NGO Committee on Sustainable Development (Vienna)" elected the following new officers in December 2016:

Chair: Ilona Graenitz (SIW)

First Vice-Chair: Dora Vrdlovec (Soroptimist International)

Secretary: Julia Lobnig (Südwind)

Deputy Secretary: Roland Leithenmayer (VFV)

Treasurer: Ingeborg Geyer (Zonta)

## 11. 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

## 2017

**May 15-26:** International Narcotics Control Board, 119<sup>th</sup> Session, UNOV Vienna

**May 22-26:** 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPEJ), UNOV Vienna

**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>

**June 13-15:** 10th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (UNHQ, New York)

[http://bit.ly/crpd\\_cosp10](http://bit.ly/crpd_cosp10)

**July 10-19:** HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF), (UNHQ, New York)

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

**December 4-8:** CIVICUS (World Alliance for Citizen Participation); International Civil Society Week (Suva, Fiji) Information: [icsw@civicus.org](mailto:icsw@civicus.org)

## **2018**

Seventieth Anniversary of CoNGO !

**February:** 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/>

**March 1-3:** CoNGO 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

**March 18-23:** 8th World Water Forum (Brasilia, Brazil) [www.worldwaterforum8.org](http://www.worldwaterforum8.org)

## **2019**

Centenary of the International Labour Organization

Centenary of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (founded as the League of Red Cross Societies)