



CoNGO COMMUNICATION No.11 - October 2014
Post-2015 development agenda

Table of Contents

Presidential Introduction 2

1. United Nations 69th General Assembly..... 5

 1.1. Importance of the Post-2015 agenda for the UNGA..... 5

2. World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 5

 2.1. Indigenous peoples seek presence in Post-2015 development agenda 6

3. Climate Summit..... 6

4. From MDGs to SDGs 8

 4.1. General Assembly adopts resolution on SDGs report 8

 4.2. MDG Gap task force Report 2014 launched..... 8

5. Accountability in the Post-2015 agenda..... 10

6. Calendar 12

Presidential Introduction

Dear CoNGO Colleagues:

A. As you certainly know by now, the entire series of CoNGO COMMUNICATIONS ON THE POST-2015 AGENDA - beginning in the first half of 2012 before the UNCSD (Rio+20 Conference) - has had the full participation and support of the University of Sherbrooke (Québec). The University's École de Politique Appliquée has made available to CoNGO a series of interns who have worked from Sherbrooke to gather, analyse and edit the masses of information being generated around and for the UN's Post-2015 Agenda. I repeat my thanks to the University and l'Ecole, and particularly warmly to the current intern, Julien Bédard, whose last CoNGO COMMUNICATION this is, as he will now be fully engaged in the pursuit of his studies. Julien has maintained the high standard of his predecessors, Simon Roy and Catherine Gauthier, and I renew our thanks to him and wish him well in his academic progress.

I look forward to welcoming a fourth intern from Sherbrooke in coming months to continue this quality CoNGO service to the membership.

B. In inaugurating the UN General Assembly's 69th Session last month, the new UNGA President, H.E. Sam Kahamba Kutesa of Uganda, stated "We have a historic opportunity to formulate a post-2015 development agenda that is transformative, brings tangible benefits, leads to improved livelihoods for all, and contributes to achieving sustainable development in its social, economic and environmental dimensions. It will also be our responsibility to ensure that adequate means for implementing the agenda, in terms of finances, technology development and transfer and capacity-building are mobilized. This will require a strengthened global partnership for development, and enhanced cooperation between and amongst member states, the private sector, civil society, and all stakeholders.....We can, collectively, make a significant contribution this year towards changing the world we live in for the better - not only for ourselves, but for generations to come."

Once again civil society can only applaud the sentiments and intentions plainly expressed at the top of the intergovernmental pyramid. And once again civil society will need to maintain - and enhance - its constant vigilance, its informed presence, and its competent inputs to the entire range of Post-2015 deliberations. This applies not only at UNHQ in New York, where so many exchanges and negotiations are concentrated, but also throughout the UN System - UNOG, UNOV, UNEP, FAO, WMO, ILO, the Regional Commissions, and at all the upcoming major UN Conferences (see Calendar at this end of this COMMUNICATION).

C. To assist and facilitate this progress, CoNGO - within its very limited means, of course - will maintain its function as a platform and "door-opener" wherever and whenever it is relevant. Membership support - moral and financial - for this work would be very welcome !

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF) and GEF-CSO NETWORK

GEF-CSO Network (formerly known as GEF-NGO Network) is an independent network of civil society organisations which acts as a bridge between civil society and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) -the largest global financing mechanism for the environment.

Change from the Ground Up; if you are an NGO which has working experience in GEF focal areas, we encourage you to apply to be a member of the GCN. Being a member will help your organisation be involved in GEF policy decisions and provide you with a network of other NGOs to work with. The GEF-CSO Network comprises nearly 600 member organizations with experience and expertise in GEFs areas of work from all regions around the world. It is governed by a global Coordination Committee composed of representatives of elected Regional Focal Point organisations from 16 geographic regions and three Indigenous Peoples Focal Points from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

About the Global Environment Facility

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) unites 182 countries in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. Today the GEF is the largest public funder of projects to improve the global environment. An independently operating financial organisation, the GEF provides grants 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 with developing countries and countries with economies in transition, providing \$10.5 billion in grants and leveraging \$51 billion in co-financing for over 2,700 projects in over 165 countries. Through its Small grants Programme (SGP), the GEF has also made more than 14,000 small grants directly to civil society and community Organisations, totalling \$634 million.

For more information, please visit <http://www.thegef.org>

1. United Nations 69th General Assembly

1.1.Importance of the Post-2015 agenda for the UNGA

The 69th General Assembly of the United Nations opened on 16 September 2014. In the newly renovated Assembly hall, Mr Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the General Assembly, declared the theme of this year's general debate "delivering on and implementing a transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda". He added that this year's meeting is going to be very busy. In addition, of the six usual main Committees, negotiations on the post-2015 Agenda will also preoccupy the Assembly. This year is going to give a great momentum to the UN with the celebration of the 70th anniversary and the 15 years since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, 10 years since the 2005 World Summit and the adoption of an update to the landmark MDGs which will set a sustainable development agenda.

For the whole summary of the opening session of the UNGA, please visit:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48729#.VBmCaxat8II>

2. World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples didn't specifically talk about the post-2015 development agenda, but is completely consistent with the evolution and the process of the agenda elaboration. In fact, they have been left out of the MDGs even though some of the Indigenous Peoples live in developed countries like Canada or the United States. Developed countries are not specifically addressed in MDG 8. However, the post-2015 agenda will have to apply to all countries. In this context, Indigenous Peoples will strongly assert the right to self-determination.

If you are interested to know more, here is the outcome document of the Conference:

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/L.1

And the website of the Conference:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/69/meetings/indigenous/#&panel1-1>

2.1. Indigenous peoples seek presence in Post-2015 development agenda

In her speech during the closing session of the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference, Galina Angarova the New York representative of Tebtebba Foundation said that marginalised groups must be taken in account in the SDGs. Speaking in the name of Indigenous peoples, she stated that they don't want to be beneficiaries, but equal partners in the journey of the post-2015 agenda. Let us remember that marginalised group such as the persons with disabilities (1 billion) and the Indigenous peoples (370 millions) were left out of the MDGs in 2000. Even though the right to self-determination has been recognised by the 2007 U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, they still have to fight for it. These declarations are not legally binding, but they have a strong power in terms of accountability.

The full article is available here: [http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/09/indigenous-peoples-
seek-presence-in-post-2015-development-agenda/](http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/09/indigenous-peoples-seek-presence-in-post-2015-development-agenda/)

3. Climate Summit

On 23 September, the UN held a Climate Summit which was a multi-dimensional event which brought together over 120 Heads of State and Government, along with leaders from civil society and business. The main theme of the summit was to catalyze an ambitious action in order to address climate change. This event was very important in the process of the Post 2015 sustainable development agenda. The event is a step towards the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Lima next December 2014, then Paris in 2015. Furthermore, it is a step towards clear targets in the post-2015 agenda.

Amongst very important topics, the Summit focused on cutting emissions; mobilizing money and markets; pricing carbon; strengthening resilience; and mobilizing new coalitions.

One of the most significant statements concerning the emissions of gas was made by the European Union countries who “committed to a target of reducing emissions to 40

per cent below 1990 levels by 2030.” This is a bold declaration which gives clear objectives for the next 15 years, considering that the EU’s objective in the Kyoto protocol was to reduce the emissions by 8% (http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/3145.php).

To mobilise money and markets, a new coalition of governments, business, finance, multilateral development banks and civil society leaders announced their objective to mobilise over \$200 billion for financing low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

A coalition that represents 52% of the global GDP and half of the world’s population agreed to signal their support for pricing carbon. Although it is worthy, no binding engagement appears to have been taken on the subject.

Strengthening resilience in both climate and the financial branch is a smart investment for our future. In fact, “an initiative to integrate climate risk into the financial system by 2020 was launched by a coalition of investors, credit ratings agencies, insurers and financial regulators in response to the growing number of extreme weather events.” Also, “leaders from the insurance industry, representing \$30 trillion in assets and investments, committed to creating a Climate Risk Investment Framework by Paris in 2015.”

Lastly, the mobilization of new coalitions is important to ensure that all stakeholders are on the same page and that they base their decision-making on science.

To read all the member states statements, click on the link below:

<https://papersmart.unmeetings.org/secretariat/eosg/un-climate-summit-2014/statements/>

For more information about outcomes of the UN Climate Summit, please visit:

<http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit/>

4. From MDGs to SDGs

The new set of goals to replace the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This transformation of concept was established by the Rio +20 Conference in June 2012. It is a significant change in the paradigm because from now on the concept of sustainability is now taken in consideration in development policy making. As defined in the original Brundtland Report, sustainable development is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

4.1. General Assembly adopts resolution on SDGs report

On 10 September, the General Assembly adopted the resolution 66/288 which states that the outcome document of the Open Working Group would be the main basis for the integration of the SDGs into the post-2015 development agenda. It also ensures that other inputs would be considered during the negotiation process throughout the 69th General Assembly session. The President of the 68th General Assembly, John Ashe, said that the next agenda must fill the gaps left by the MDGs, but also bring us to the other level in fighting hunger and poverty, along with promoting a sustainable development as the new norm for all nations, all economies.

For more information, and to view the goals, visit:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/sustainable/sdgs-post2015.html>

4.2. MDG Gap task force Report 2014 launched

The MDG Gap task force was created by the Secretary-General in 2007 to improve monitoring of the global commitment contained in the 8 MDGs. Recent statistics say that many targets of the MDGs have been met. However, many more targets have to be reached before the expiration year, 2015.

“Now more than ever, leaders and citizens across the globe must boldly step forward to join in essential collective actions to eradicate poverty, raise living standards and sustain

the environment,” Mr. Ban said. “I call on all Governments and international institutions to continue strengthening the global partnership for development so that we can usher in a more sustainable future.”

The report underlines the gap between commitments made and cooperation delivered. Ultimately, it will be used to help the international community to bridge the difference.

The MDG advocacy group had convened on 25 September a meeting which gathered 300 global leaders and the Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon. With 462 days still to go (from that day) before the expiry of the MDGs, Mr Ban warned that there is much more we can do to “finish the job”. In fact, “according to the new report [...] the past two decades has seen the likelihood of a child dying before the age of five nearly reduced by half while the maternal mortality ratio has dropped by 45 per cent. At the same time, antiretroviral therapy for HIV-infected people has saved an estimated 6.6 million lives and another estimated 3.3 million people were saved from malaria due to the diffusion of major preventive measures such as bed nets and treatments. Efforts to fight tuberculosis, meanwhile, have saved an estimated 22 million lives.”

For the statistics, follow that link:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf>

To view the new report, follow this link: http://www.mdgleaders.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/UN_MDGLeadersReport.pdf

For the articles, visit: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48843#.VC5h-Rb4cSR> and <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/policy/mdg-gap-report2014.html>

5. Accountability in the Post-2015 agenda

On 11 September 2014, the UN General Assembly conducted a stock-taking on the post-2015 development agenda, with a high-level meeting to collect contributions to the imminent synthesis report of the UN Secretary-General. During this event, Martin Sajdik, President of the Economic and social council (ECOSOC), underlined the necessity for the new development agenda to rethink accountability completely. Along with M. Sajdik, Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary-General, highlighted the importance of this principle, adding that the new agenda will not be legally binding. However, “the post-2015 agenda will find its legitimacy in finishing the work started with the MDGs, and sustainable development is key to making poverty eradication irreversible.” Governments also emphasized the importance of accountability stating that “the post-2015 development agenda will need a robust monitoring and accountability framework, built on sound indicators.” The Secretary-General Synthesis report will tie all the work that has been done on the post-2015 development agenda. It will provide the building blocks of the post-2015 era.

Since May of 2014, the 68th President of the Assembly, John Ashe passed the baton to the UN system to find ways to increase accountability. It resulted in the Secretary-General asking the Regional Economic Commissions to convene discussions with all regional entities and stakeholders.

Thomas Gass, UN Assistant Secretary General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs:

“[S]hared some preliminary outputs of these consultations, including that the accountability framework must: be comprehensive, multi-layered, and multi-stakeholder; advance integration and coherence; have a bottom-up approach; and be incentive-based, with strong country ownership. In addition, reviews should be state-led but engage stakeholders. HLPF has been mentioned by many as the platform to oversee the overall accountability framework at the international level, he said, and ECOSOC is expected to have a role in launching and monitoring partnerships and cooperation.”

Member states responded to those outputs by saying that it was a highly political issue and that it should take into account local circumstances. Finland, Spain and Italy cautioned that the lack of accountability in the MDGs was a big obstacle for them. The main debate was around a definition of accountability. It was brought up by Canada, to which the US cited four elements that composed the principle: “participation, data, partnerships and capacity building”. A debate like this is always a long journey. At least, many actors see that the principle of accountability must be taken into account in the post-2015 development agenda.

Read more: <http://sd.iisd.org/news/unga-68-takes-stock-of-input-to-post-2015-development-agenda/>

6. 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

October – November 2014

- October 20 –November 7: International Telecommunications Union, Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, Korea)

<http://www.itu.int/en/plenipotentiary/2014/Pages/default.aspx>

November 2014

- 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 <http://civicus.org/index.php/en/get-involved-128/2014-04-25-05-16-07/civil-society-week>
- November 12-19 INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE (World Conservation Union), 6th World Parks Conference (Sydney, Australia)
- November 20-21: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors (Vienna International Centre) Organizer: IAEA

- November 25-27: United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Industrial Development Board 42nd Session (Vienna International Centre) Organizer: UNIDO

December 2014

- 1-12 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 20th Conference of Parties (Lima, Peru)

2015

- Seventieth Anniversary of the United Nations Organization
- World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995: Beijing +20 Campaign
<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>

March 2015

- 14-18 UN Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai, Japan)

April 2015

- 12-17: 7th World Water Forum (Daegu, Gyeongbuk, Korea)
<http://worldwaterforum7.org/en>

July 2015

- 13-16 Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
- High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Third Session (Geneva, Switzerland)

2016

- Third United Nations Conference on Human Settlements: HABITAT III

May 2016

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