

NGOCSD General Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday May 28th, 2014, 2 – 4:00PM

Minutes Submitted by Secretary Modou Cham

LOCATION - UN Church Center, Hardin Room, 11th Floor

2-2:30PM:

Welcome by - Co-Chairs Margo LaZaro and Dr. T. Bella Dinh-Zarr

Treasurer, Martha Kebalo, sent regrets. We read the Treasurer's Report and it was approved.

Secretary, Modou Cham, read the minutes of the NGOCSD, Executive Committee meeting April 29th and gave an accounting of the NGOCSD's finances and membership.

Co – Chairs Margo LaZaro and Dr. T. Bella Dinh-Zarr elucidated that we are working to put together the Co-Chairs for NGOCSD Sub-Committees. We will be forming several new concepts for Sub-Committees in the coming months.

Co – Chairs further mentioned that the NGOCSD Co-Sponsored: the Indigenous Side Event with United Religions Initiative for the 13th Indigenous Permanent Forum on May 13th at the UN Church Center Chapel. We submitted a statement to the DPI/NGO Conference Experts Sub-Committee for the Zero Declaration to Co-Facilitator, Richard Jordan. The NGOCSD has been invited to Co-Sponsor Workshops for the 65th UN/DPI NGO Conference in August.

We announced the addition of six NGOCSD Advisors: H. E. Mr. Ib Petersen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark; Mr. Gordon M. Tapper – former UN Chief of Facilities Management; Ms. Kamila Jacob, Envoy UUA & DPI/NGO Youth Representative; Mr. Roberto Borrero, UN/NGO Rep. of Tribal Link Foundation and President of the Federation of Taino People, Ms. Ta' Kaiya Blakely, Indigenous Youth Representative & Mr. Daniel Coviello – DPI/NGO Youth Representative.

2:30-3:00PM: Co-Chairs Margo LaZaro and Dr. T. Bella Dinh-Zarr welcomed Ms. Claire Bulger. **Ms. Clarie Bulger is the Special Assistant to Professor Jeffery Sachs, the Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Ms. Bulger is also the coordinator of the World Happiness Report, and works closely with Prof. Sachs on Earth Institute initiatives related to the study and promotion of happiness and wellbeing. She spoke about: “Sustainable Development Solutions: Reflections from the Asia-Pacific Region”**

Ms. Bulger spoke about the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Mandated by Secretary General Ban ki-Moon and Directed by Prof. Jeffrey Sachs.

They have 5 Objectives and they are:

1. Support the UN on the post 2015
2. Build thematic groups
3. Implement solutions initiatives
4. Build a global network
5. Online educational materials

Further, The SDSN is building an online university to provide affordable, quality higher education worldwide, and their goal is to have a compendium of free online courses for Sustainable Development. They also want to build a global network for global problems. The regional networks are meant to, engage in the global discussion on the post-2015 development goals, Promote Solution Initiatives for Sustainable Development, Showcase Sustainable Development Projects undertaken by regional SDSN members, Promote education for Sustainable Development and assist governments in diagnosing local, national, and regional Sustainable Development challenges and in devising long-term strategies.

Ms. Bulger then gave reflections from her trip with Prof. Sachs to China and Australia and the world's pathway to Deep Decarbonization through the SDGs. The Deep Decarbonization Pathway is an initiative of the SDSN, IDDRI, and research institutions in 12 countries covering more than 70% of global CO2 emissions. Their objective is to

prepare transparent and practical national deep decarbonization pathways to 2050 and also Support the 2014 World Leaders Climate Summit and the 2015 Conference of the Parties (COP21).

SDGs for Australia:

Ms. Bulger also explained the discussion papers on Sustainable development goals and targets for Australia. Australia has developed a nationally specific set of indicators for them as a country because they are more vulnerable to climate change.

Finally, Ms. Bulger elucidated that the World Happiness Report and the Measurability of Happiness. OECD active in this area – had released a book for guidelines of how to measure subjective wellbeing and have since been working with statistical agencies to teach how to do this, and how to include these questions in the national census. Relative issues of happy – GDP has tripled but happiness has not – in some ways it has remained flat and not changed. There was a brief Q &A with a promise for more information to come to the NGOCS D from Ms. Bulger.

3:00– 3:45pm

Co-Chairs Margo LaZaro and Dr. T. Bella Dinh-Zarr welcomed **Mr. Sniffen, the Programme and Liaison Officer in the New York Office of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). He spoke on:**
“UNEP, the Sustainable Development Goals and post-2015”

Mr. Sniffen opened by giving members of the NGO CSD a few facts about UNEP and issues they handle. Further, he explained that environmental areas are increasingly being mainstreamed across the UN. The UN has continuous briefings and discussions about the Post-2015 agenda. Environmental ministers have agreed to stand together and collectively ask for common solutions to reach parliaments because they need a clear voice of what they want to see for 2015. The year 2015 will be a big year for climate change, ideally, there will be an agreement in Paris for the success of Kyoto. This will also give a platform for Heads of States and ministers to announce the new agendas at the national level and commitments of the international level and the SG is optimistic.

This June, the first UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA) will be held in Nairobi Kenya. The week-long conference will host government officials, civil society representatives and business leaders from 160 UN member states. The UN Secretary General is expected to attend and discuss the current trends in the environment and policy recommendations from the General Assembly.

Mr. Shiffen also spoke about the upcoming NY Climate Week and UN Climate Summit 2014. Both events will take place this September 2015. He mentioned that more than 350 organizations are expected to attend. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is inviting Heads of State and Government leaders along with business, finance, civil society and local leaders to a Climate Summit in September 2014, New York.

There was a brief Q &A with promise for more information to come from UN-Habitat to the NGOCS D.

3:45 – 4:00

Co-Chairs Margo LaZaro and Dr. T. Bella Dinh-Zarr presented a Declaration of Appreciation to Mr. Jim Sniffen on behalf of the NGOCS D EC and the Membership for his many years of dedication with UNEP and his tireless support of the NGO community. Mr. Sniffen was surprised and showed his appreciation by thanking the Co-Chairs, EC and our NGOCS D Members for being the first person to receive the NGOCS D Declaration of Appreciation.

4:00

Meeting Adjourned