

NGOCSD General Meeting Notes: Tuesday, October 7th 2014, 1-3PM

UN Church Center, 2nd Floor - 777 United Nations Plaza

Submitted by Modou Cham, Secretary

Co-Chair Margo LaZaro welcomed everyone to the meeting and elucidated that this month's meeting is Themed: "What's Cooking & How?" Margo asked for approval of the Meeting Minutes from our General Membership meeting in June and the approval of our Meeting Agenda – all we approved and seconded. Margo invited the Modou & Martha to join her at the front of the room as she explained that Dr. Bella Dinh-Zarr left as Co-Chair of the NGOCSD due to her heavy work responsibilities with her new position as the North American Director of the FIA Foundation. Although, she is no longer Co-Chair of the NGOCSD, she promised to stay involved with the committee when her schedule permits. Margo along with Modou & Martha then welcomed Ms. Yvonne O'Neal as the new Co-Chair of the NGOCSD. Yvonne represents Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN), an NGO headquartered in Cameroon. Yvonne is active in the NGO Committee of Financing for Development, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons (CSTIP) and the NGOCSD. Further, Margo welcomed Mr. Laurence Singer to the NGOCSD as our new Member-at-Large. Laurence is the UN/NGO Representative of Global Family for Love & Peace which has ECOSOC Status at the UN. He has 45 years of experience as a lawyer, specializing in non-profit, media, entertainment and corporate law and intellectual property. The EC have approved both Yvonne and Laurence and they were appointed by the EC to the Executive Committee to fill in the rest of the vacated terms with the full approval of all NGOCSD members present.

Secretary Modou Cham gave the Secretary's Report. Co-Chairs asked for a Motion to Accept the Secretary's report – All in Favor.

Treasurer Martha Kebola gave the treasure's report – at the end of August we had \$6,374.62; Expenses for the NGOCSD expenses for the 65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference were under \$300. which included the Exhibit and Workshop participation. The Co-Chairs called for a Motion to Accept the Treasure's Report – All in Favor.

Co-Chairs Margo and Yvonne welcomed Dr. Seemin Qayum – UN Women Sustainable Development Adviser. She gave a presentation on "Why Energy Matters for Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment". She elucidated that the world today faces a significant energy divide: between rich and poor countries. Some 3 billion people rely on solid fuels, such as wood dung, crop waste, coal and charcoal, for cooking and heating. Within the energy divide, women experience energy poverty differently and more severely than men because women are often responsible for household and community energy establishment in many developing countries. Gender inequalities are deteriorated by the lack of widespread access to modern energy facilities in terms of the time and labor. Women and children bear the undesirable effects of fuel collection and transport, spending from 1 to 4 hours a day assembling biomass for fuel. Correspondingly the journey to collect fuel and water can be fraught with the risk of violence against women and girl. So access to cleaner and affordable energy options is essential for improving the livelihoods of the poor in developing countries, particularly women and girls. Next, Dr. Qayum gave a detailed analysis on what UN women are doing to make sure women have access to energy. For example, along with UN foundation and WHO, UN Women co-led the Energy for Women's and Children's Health, a SE4ALL High Impact Opportunity (HIO). HIO focuses specifically on the electrification of health facilities to improve essential health services in underserved areas, especially maternal and newborn health care.

Dr. Qayum ended her presentation by explaining that taking women's needs into account makes energy interventions more likely to have a significant impact on household and community poverty and on gender equality. In addition she said that the greatest potential for poverty alleviation comes from combining

energy service delivery with supporting income generation through information services, training in business skills and access to financing and markets, including support for the active engagement of women in the energy sector through new enterprises and sustainable resource management.

Co-Chairs Margo and Yvonne introduced Dr. David Stillman, Executive Director of the Public-Private Alliance Foundation. His presentation was based on “Ethanol Fuel and Cookstoves in Haiti”. Dr. Stillman elucidated that PPAF teams worked in Haiti in September and October of 2013, the organization built partnerships with the Inter-American Development Bank officials, government officials, farmers and distillers and community organizations including women's groups in Leogane and several organizations in Jacmel. PPAF focused on the use and testing of cookstoves, research on existing practices in distilleries and their potential for increasing production of high-proof ethanol on market studies for ethanol cookstoves and fuel. Overall they have two purposes: to advance expansion of the project in Haiti by bringing together a range of actors for agreement and to promote the benefits and possibilities of ethanol cookstoves and fuel in Haiti and elsewhere.

Co-Chairs Margo and Yvonne introduced Dr. Arline Lederman, Vice President and United Nations Representative for Solar Cookers International. Dr. Lederman presentation was based on Solar Cookers International’s work to solve the problem of inadequate household energy facing nearly 3 billion people on our planet. Further she made it clear that human health, quality of life, and environments are affected by cooking fuel choices and Solar Cookers International offers a solution to the difficult choices nearly half of all families make every day: whether to buy fuel, or to buy food and other family needs. She further explained that the sun’s free energy is a viable solution for all who live where the sun shines. Solar cooker technology is a sustainable and environmentally responsible tool which helps families fight poverty and disease. What distinguishes Solar Cookers International is their combination of projects, partnerships, advocacy and outreach to the global solar cooker community. During her speech she pointed to her presentation table which included a variety of solar cookers, one of which was the CookIt. The \$39 CookIt is a lightweight, compact solar cooker and it is the most widely-used solar cooker in the world. It is made of cardboard and aluminum foil and the cooking temperature ranges from 180-240f.

Our presenters were invited back to the table for a Q&A Session - Moderated by Dr. Qayum

Co-Chairs Margo and Yvonne encouraged everyone to join our NGOCS D.

3:00pm – Meeting Adjourned