

NGOCSD – General Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, April 29th, 2014 from 1-3PM, Boss Room, 8th Floor of the Church Center

Submitted by Secretary, Modou Cham - Edited by Co-Chair, Margo LaZaro & Treasurer, Martha Kebalo

1-1:30PM:

Welcome by: Ms. Margo LaZaro Co-Chair & Mr. Modou Cham, Secretary -

Dr. T Bella Dinh-Zarr, Co-Chair sent regrets due to her busy schedule for FIA Foundation in Washington, DC

Treasurer, Martha Kebalo, gave an accounting of the NGOCSD's finances and membership.

Secretary, Modou Cham, read the minutes of the NGOCSD, Executive Committee meeting March 19, 2014

Co-Chair Margo LaZaro elucidated that NGOCSD has Co-Sponsored in collaboration with other NGO Committees and Groups a number of activities at the UN. These include the interfaith Call for Prayers to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and the Panel Discussion in the Trusteeship Council Chamber on for the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review on Nuclear Weapons and the Moral Compass.

Co-Chair, Margo LaZaro informed those present about the new NGOCSD Subcommittees. There are now two Sub-Committees with more being formed. We are in the process of putting together one on Women and Sustainable Development and another on Climate Change. The NGOCSD Co-Chairs will be working closely with the new Sub-Committee Co-Chairs to create a foundation for each Sub-Committee. All Sub-Committee members must have paid the yearly dues or renewed their NGOCSD membership to service on the NGOCSD Sub-Committees.

Further, Co-Chair, Margo LaZaro and Secretary, Modou Cham read out the newly appointed list of NGOCSD Advisors. The impressive list of Advisors includes Ambassadors, UN Officials, private sector executives, sustainable development experts and Ivy League professors.

1:30-2PM: Co-Chair Margo LaZaro, welcomed and introduced her friend and colleague - who is a highly regarded international expert on Nuclear Disarmament: **Ms. Jackie Cabasso, Executive Director, Western States Legal Foundation & the North American Coordinator for Mayors for Peace** spoke on **“Sustainable Development and the Imperative for Nuclear Abolition.”**

Ms. Cabasso opened with the startling statement that all nine of the world's nuclear weapon states (the big five: US, Russia, UK, France, China, and four others known to have such capability: India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel) are all in violation of their Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty commitments.

The nine states will spend more than a trillion dollars on their nuclear war arsenal and delivery systems over the next ten years; while global environmental and health care costs are harder to calculate. It is known, however, that over 600,000 nuclear industrial workers and countless numbers of indigenous persons have been directly exposed to dangerous materials (by the USA in the West and Pacific, by the Soviet Union in Kazakhstan, Japan's still unfolding Fukushima disaster). Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear energy are not Sustainable for in the end result.

Further, Ms. Cabasso explained that The Mayors for Peace, an international association established in 1982, and active in the 1980s, has been reinvigorated by the efforts of the Mayor of Hiroshima since 2003. Mayors for Peace now holds 6000 member cities in 158 member countries, and represents 1 billion people worldwide.

Ms. Cabasso invited us to help have Bill DeBlasio, Mayor of New York City - join Mayors for Peace. New York is not one of the USA's 200 member cities. Jackie discussed the importance of NGOs to join Abolition-2000 to learn and always stay informed on current issues related to Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Energy concerns. Jackie handed out in brochures for Mayors for Peace and she invited to everyone to get involved. There was time for a brief, but highly informative Q & A ~

2-3PM: Co-Chair, Margo LaZaro, welcomed and introduced: **Ms Yamina Djacta, Director of the UN-Habitat, New York Office, who spoke on “Partnership Building for Sustainable Cities.” Ms Djacta, represented the UN Human Settlements Program which is based in Nairobi Kenya. Ms Djacta also later introduced her colleague Mr. Albert Parlos.**

NGOCSD – General Meeting: Tuesday April 29th, 2014 – Minutes – Page 2 ~

Ms Djacta gave an overview of the history of the Habitat conferences beginning with a conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972 which lead to Habitat 1 (Vancouver, 1978) and Habitat 2 (Istanbul Turkey in 1996). UN Habitat was established as a UN Program in 2001. Habitat 3 is upcoming in 2016.

Ms Djacta indicated that UN Habitat is addressing the world's inevitable urbanization, as fully 70% of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2015. 90% of the projected rural-urban changeover is felt in the developing world and the biggest problem is the coinciding proliferation of slums (currently 1 billion slum-dwellers worldwide).

This trend makes it imperative to do effective urban planning up front, to help make cities both livable and energy efficient. Rio +20 outcomes assert that cities can promote economic, social and environmental sustainable societies.

Ms Djacta's colleague, Albert Parlos, an expert in land and property rights in post-conflict situations (see gltn.org Global Land Tool Network supported by UN Habitat) talked about land rights as a continuum covering various conditions of ownership that can be used creatively to re-plan land usage within communities. These "City changers" programs were discussed during the 7th World Urban Forum in Medellin, Colombia in April 2014.

There was a brief Q & A with promises for more information to come from UN-Habitat to the NGOCSD.

Before adjourning the meeting Co-Chair, Margo LaZaro asked everyone to join her in thanking Ms. Djacta for becoming an Advisor of the NGOCSD.

Meeting Ajourned: 3:15PM