



## NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, NY

*Environmental, social and economic development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*  
~ "Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change" ~

### NGOCS D General Membership Meeting: Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015



**Nobel Laureate Professor Wangari Muta Maathai** was born in Nyeri, Kenya in 1940 and was the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree. Wangari Maathai obtained a degree in Biological Sciences from Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kansas (1964). She subsequently earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh (1966). She pursued doctoral studies in Germany and the University of Nairobi, obtaining a Ph.D. (1971) from the University of Nairobi where she also taught veterinary anatomy. Ms. Maathai was active in the National Council of Women of Kenya from 1976-87 and was its chairman from 1981-87. During this time, she introduced the idea of planting trees with the people in 1976 and continued to develop it into a broad-based, grassroots organization whose main focus is the planting of trees with women groups in order to conserve the environment and improve their quality of life. Through the Green Belt Movement she has assisted women in planting more than 20 million trees on their farms and on schools and church compounds. Professor Maathai was internationally recognized for her persistent struggle for democracy, human rights and environmental conservation. She addressed the UN on several occasions and spoke on behalf of women at special sessions of the General Assembly for the five-year review of the earth summit. She and the Green Belt Movement received numerous awards, most notably the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. Others include The Sophie Prize (2004), The Petra Kelly Prize for Environment (2004), The Conservation Scientist Award (2004), J. Sterling Morton Award (2004), WANGO Environment Award (2003), Outstanding Vision and Commitment Award (2002), Excellence Award from the Kenyan Community Abroad (2001), Golden Ark Award (1994), Juliet Hollister Award (2001), Jane Adams Leadership Award (1993), Edinburgh Medal (1993), The Hunger Project's Africa Prize for Leadership (1991), Goldman Environmental Prize (1991), the Woman of the World (1989), Windstar Award for the Environment (1988), Better World Society Award (1986), Right Livelihood Award (1984) and the Woman of the Year Award (1983). Professor Maathai was also listed on UNEP's Global 500 Hall of Fame and named one of the 100 heroines of the world. In June 1997, she was elected by Earth Times as one of 100 persons in the world who have made a difference in the environmental arena. Professor Maathai also received honorary doctoral degrees from several institutions around the world: William's College, MA, USA (1990), Hobart & William Smith Colleges (1994), University of Norway (1997) and Yale University (2004). Professor Maathai served on the boards of several organizations including the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament, The Jane Goodall Institute, Women and Environment Development Organization (WEDO), World Learning for International Development, Green Cross International, Environment Liaison Center International, the World WIDE Network of Women in Environmental Work and National Council of Women of Kenya. In December 2002, Professor Maathai was elected to parliament with an overwhelming 98% of the vote and was subsequently appointed by the president as Assistant Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife in Kenya's ninth parliament. Professor Maathai left us in September of 2011 and we miss her dearly.



**Mr. Arthur Amaya Andambi, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission Kenya to the United Nations.** In October 2014, Mr. Andambi was posted to the Kenya Mission to the UN in New York as Minister Counsellor where he is in charge of Second Committee matters and performs Administrative duties as Head of Chancery. Mr. Andambi was recruited by the Public Service Commission of Kenya in February 1990 as an Assistant Secretary. He worked mainly at the Ministry of Home Affairs where he performed duties of a Special Programme for Refugees. He worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure refugees were given the status they deserved in Kenya. He was also involved in the establishment of refugee camps in the country and generally worked with other aid agencies which were involved in the care and protection of refugees and forced migrants. Mr. Andambi worked briefly at the then Standing Committee on Human Rights in Kenya where the rights of Kenyans particularly those in prisons were protected. He also worked briefly at the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Lands during this period where he served as a Personal Assistant to the then Permanent Secretary. Mr. Andambi has a Master's Degree in International Studies from the University of Nairobi. Graduated in September 2008 and had graduated in 1989 with a Bachelor's Degree (First Class Honors) in Sociology and Political Science from MS University of Baroda in Gujarat State, India. Mr. as deployed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and posted to the Africa and AU Directorate where he dealt with African Union matters. In October 2008, he was posted to the Kenya Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden where he dealt with relations between Kenya and Sweden, Norway and Iceland. He worked as Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Chancery where he was in charge of the general administration of the Mission. In November 2012, he returned to Nairobi where he was reassigned duties as Deputy Director at the Africa and AU Directorate. His work there involved promoting relations between Kenya and other African countries including the African Union. Was later transferred to Europe and Commonwealth Directorate in the same capacity and his work involved promoting relations between Kenya and European countries including the Commonwealth.



**Ms. Lopa Banerjee, Chief of the Civil Society Section at UN Women,** a position she has held since January 2012. She is based in New York and leads UNWomen's work on strengthening civil society contribution, participation and influence in norm setting and intergovernmental policy discussion and decision processes. A gender and human rights thematic expert with substantive experience in social policy and governance issues across Asia and Africa, she has worked for over 3 decades in international development, policy advocacy, communication and partnership building across the UN and in the private sector. She has had a long career with the United Nations. Prior to the UN she worked with the private sector as well as with civil society, in India. Before joining UN Women, she worked with UNDP and OHCHR in South Africa and UNICEF in Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Bangladesh and New York. In India, she worked for several years in communication, research and advocacy. She has worked with civil society in diverse spaces and facilitated UN-civil society engagement in South Africa, Iran and Bangladesh. Her areas of specialization include policy analysis and advocacy, partnership development and engagement, and Gender and Human Rights Based Programming and training. She speaks English, Hindi, Bengali and is learning Spanish.



**Ms. Wanjira Mathai, Director, wPOWER, Chair of the Green Belt Movement and Project Director for the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies.** Prior to this she directed International Affairs at the Green Belt Movement (GBM), where she managed international outreach and resource mobilization. For 6 years prior to joining GBM, Ms. Mathai worked as Senior Program Officer at the Carter Presidential Center, Atlanta, Georgia (USA), monitoring & evaluating disease eradication programs. Since 2002, Ms. Mathai directed International Affairs at GBM, which was founded by her mother, the late Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Maathai. Today Wanjira directs the new Partnership for Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables (wPower) Hub at the Wangari Maathai Institute. Wanjira is the Chair of the Green Belt Movement and sits on the Board of WMI. She is also a World Future Councilor, Advisory Council Member (Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves), is a member of the Global Restoration Council and is a member of the Earth Charter International Council. Wanjira is Kenyan and a graduate of Hobart & William Smith Colleges (USA). She earned graduate degrees in Public Health and Business from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health and Goizueta School of Business (USA).

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**Dr. Margaret (Peg) Snyder, Founding Director of UNIFEM (1978-89), Co-Founder of the African Centre for Women and Head of the Voluntary Agencies Bureau of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA 1971-78).** She was an international election observer in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Tanzania and a Fulbright scholar at Makerere University, Uganda (1990s); her PhD is from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. She is Co-Founder and Vice President emeritus of the Board of the Sirleaf Market Women's Fund and Treasurer emeritus of the Green Belt Movement International. Her recent books are *Transforming Development: Women, Poverty and Politics* (a history of UNIFEM), *African Women and Development: A History* (co-authored with Mary Tadesse), *Women in African Economies: from Burning Sun to Boardroom* and *Above the Odds: a Decade of Change for Ugandan Women Entrepreneurs* (with Sarah Kitakule); she has written chapters in several other books.



**Ms. Mia MacDonald, Chair of the Green Belt Movement International – North America and Founder and Executive Director of Brighter Green.** Based in New York. Ms. MacDonald is a public policy analyst and writer who has worked as a consultant to a range of international non-governmental organizations; including the Ford Foundation, the World Wildlife Fund, the Green Belt Movement, the Sierra Club, and Save the Children as well as several United Nations agencies, among others—on issues of environment, gender, sustainable development, women's rights and gender equality, reproductive health and population, and conservation and animal protection. She has published many articles in popular and environmental media, authored a number of policy papers and reports, and has contributed to four books, including Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Maathai's best-selling autobiography, *Unbowed*. She is a Senior Fellow of the *Worldwatch Institute* and has taught in the human rights program at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and the environmental studies program at New York University. She has served on the board of *Farm Sanctuary* and *Food Empowerment Project*. She currently chairs the board of the *Green Belt Movement International – North America*. She received a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a B.A. with honors from Columbia University.



**Mr. Ochoro E. Otunnu, J.D. is a Board Member of the Green Belt Movement International, US.** He serves as Principal and General Counsel of LCN Capital LLC. Mr. Otunnu has extensive legal and private equity experience in fund formation, deal structuring, financing, corporate governance and securities law within developed and emerging markets. His complex transaction and negotiation work includes assisting in the development of the Angola Stock Exchange. Mr. Otunnu combines his deep commercial expertise with a lifelong passion and commitment to human rights and social and economic development. His pro bono legal work includes the 2004 constitutional case that ended one-party rule in Uganda, the defence of Koigi Wamwere who was imprisoned twice in Kenya for his opposition to the regimes of Jomo Kenyatta and Daniel arap Moi as well as acting as counsel to American journalist Taylor Krauss, who was detained in Uganda for covering pro-democracy demonstrations. Throughout his career, Mr. Otunnu has been extensively involved in development work. He formed and became Executive Director of Africa AIDS Initiative (AAI). Mr. Otunnu also served as Program Coordinator with Oxfam, with responsibility for humanitarian work in five countries, consulted for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and supported the Kofi Annan team that brokered a peace deal in Kenya following post-election violence in 2008. He

also advised Rory Kennedy in the production of the HBO award-winning documentary film *Pandemic: Facing AIDS*. Mr. Otunnu serves as a Member of Advisory Board of Impact Investment Partners LLP. In 1989 he co-chaired the United Nations mission that developed the blueprint for the UN international assistance to the non-governmental sector in Namibia, and created the group at Yale Law School that partnered with the Pan-African Parliamentarians to draft model HIV/AIDS legislation for Africa. Mr. Otunnu holds a J.D. degree from Columbia Law School; an M.A. in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) from Oxford University; and an A.B. in Government from Dartmouth College.



**Ms. Eleanor Blomstrom, Program Director/ Head of Office, Women Environment & Development Organization.** As Program Director at WEDO, Ms. Blomstrom manages internal and external relationships and partnerships, including with staff, funders and coalition and project partners. She works closely with program staff in strategic development, implementation and monitoring of WEDO programs and projects. With a particular focus on sustainable development, climate change and urbanization, her work incorporates research, capacity building, and global-level advocacy at multiple UN fora, including the UNFCCC and related to the post-2015 development agenda. Supporting WEDO's long-standing role of facilitating space for women's organizing and action, she represents WEDO as organizing partner of the Women's Major Groups for Sustainable Development and for Disaster Risk Reduction. Prior to WEDO, she worked on climate change projects ranging from green roofs to waste management to adaptation, and on community development projects in the areas of agriculture and women's empowerment in Nicaragua and Nigeria. Her current work is informed by a professional background in bilingual elementary education with a focus on race and gender equity in public schools. Ms Blomstrom holds a Masters in International Affairs in Urban and Environmental Policy from Columbia University's School of International and

Public Affairs and a Bachelors degree in Environmental Sciences.



**Ms. Rita Henley Jensen, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Women's eNews** which is a daily, online news service covering issues of particular concern to women and girls. Launched in 2000, Women's eNews has won 40 journalism awards including the PASS Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and the Rosa Cisneros award from the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region. Jensen also was named by the New York Daily News one of the 100 most influential women in New York and she has just been named one of Folio magazine's Top Women in Media, Corporate Visionary, to be celebrated in June. She is a former senior writer for the National Law Journal and columnist for The New York Times Syndicate and has received an armload of awards, including the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Alumni award. Jensen is also a survivor of domestic violence and a former welfare mother who earned degrees from Ohio State University and Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. She is the grandmother of four, two granddaughters and two grandsons. "Covering women's issues; changing women's lives" [www.womensenews.org](http://www.womensenews.org)



**Mr. Ilmi Granoff, J.D. is a Senior Research Fellow at Overseas Development Institute.** ODI is leading the institute's work on green growth. He is an attorney with over 15 years of experience and expertise in environmental law and policy, sustainable development, energy and infrastructure finance and public-private partnerships. He recently served as the sole environmental and climate counsel at the African Development Bank, where he advised the bank's management, and was responsible for all legal issues related to climate, environmental and social matters for the bank's portfolio throughout Africa. He also advised the Bank on various issues related to its multilateral climate funds, including the structuring of the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa. He continues to advise the bank's Climate & Environment Department on integration of green growth principles in the bank's strategy, operations, and policy support to member countries. Prior to this, he served for five years as an associate in the energy and infrastructure finance practice of the international law firm of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, providing commercially practical legal advice to governments, banks, companies and multilaterals. Ilmi's practice focused on clean energy transactions and public private partnerships. Mr. Granoff has researched and published on sustainable development, international law, and conservation, particularly in Latin America. He holds graduate degrees in

environmental science and international relations from Yale University, and received his *juris doctor* from New York University School of Law. He holds a bachelor's degree (High Honors) from Swarthmore College.

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**Mr. Ravi Karkara, Co-Chair, World We Want 2015 Policy and Strategy Group; Global Advisor on Youth + Partnership with United Nations Millennium Campaign and UN-HABITAT**, based in New York. He is the lead author of the groundbreaking report "Youth 21: Building the Architecture of Youth Engagement in the UN System," by UN-Habitat, which contributed to the creation of United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Youth. Ravi represented UN-HABITAT as the Co-chair of the UN Interagency Network on Youth Development. Government of Sri Lanka appointed him as the Global Advisor to the World Conference on Youth in 2014, focusing on youth perspective in developing post-2015 development agenda. He has relentlessly supported United Nations SG's My World 2015 survey in reaching close to 5.5 million young people. Ravi has been co-chairing the Policy Strategy Group for World We Want 2015 - a UN and CSO co-led post-2015 Big Data-Curation-Visualization global conversation platform. He is serving as Strategic Adviser Partnership Beijing+20, Office of the Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director, UN-Women. He has committed his lifetime to women's and girls' empowerment, strengthening human rights of/with girls, adolescent girls, young women and women, gender equality and social inclusion. He is a founding member of the MenEngage Alliance and Young Men 4 Gender Equality. He has

worked with several organizations on gender mainstreaming with a specific focus on children, youth and women including UN-Women, UNICEF and Save the Children. He has been advocating role of boys and men in gender equality from a life-cycle approach. The Ministers Reference Book Commonwealth 2014 featured his article on Youth Led Development The book features over 40 articles from leading commentators, including H.E.s David Cameron, Goodluck Jonathan, Executive Heads of UNCTAD, ITC, IMF, UNESCO, FAO and others.



**Ms. Emilie McGlone, is the Director of the New York-based office of Peace Boat US**, a non-profit organization working to promote peace, sustainable development and respect for the environment through educational programs organized onboard the Peace Boat, a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on peace voyages. Peace Boat holds Special Consultative Status with the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations and works in partnership with UN delegates, Nobel Peace Laureates and community leaders from around the world to create opportunities for international cooperation focused on conflict resolution, environmental sustainability, indigenous issues, cultural awareness and peace education. Founded in 1983 and nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009, Peace Boat has sailed on over 83 global voyages, carrying more than 50,000 people to more than 100 countries. Currently, Peace Boat is launching a new initiative to build an ECO SHIP, which will showcase green technology and design, while inspiring positive change to radically reduce our carbon footprint. For information about Peace Boat, please visit [www.peaceboat.org](http://www.peaceboat.org).



**Ms. Julie Ojiambo, Student at Hunter College.** She is a graduating senior at Hunter College. Originally from Kenya, she is interested in human rights, women's rights and children's rights and is planning a career as an international lawyer. Ms. Ojiambo knew Wangari Maathai through her childhood and was inspired by her leadership and dedication to being of service to all people for a better world.



**The Rev. Canon Petero A. Sabune, Chaplain, Ministerial, Family, and Volunteer Services, As the Global Partnership Officer for the Episcopal Church.** During his tenure as Global South Grants Officer for Trinity Church, Wall Street, Rev. Sabune experienced firsthand the effects of climate change in the rain forest of Cameroon and in Congo, which Dr. Maathai called the world's second lung. Rev. Sabune was raised in the Volcanic Region between Uganda, Congo and Rwanda; The Muhavura Ranges of Central and East Africa, drinking from the same fresh water streams, that Professor Wangari Muta Maathai writes about in one of her books on the environment, Challenge For Africa. He also has experienced the same soil erosion, deforestation and the contamination of the drinking water in his ancestral village of Kagando and has led Forgiveness and Reconciliation and Tree Planting, missions to Uganda, Rwanda and Haiti. Rev. Sabune has travelled extensively in East, Central, West and Southern Africa. A Student of African history, he has been to 38 countries in Africa. He is founder and President of Forgiveness and Reconciliation Project. Sabune has had articles published in O Magazine and the Huffington Post, on the Prayer and on Forgiveness. He was also featured in a PBS special by Helen Whitney; Forgiveness: A Time To love & A Time To Hate. A graduate of Vassar College with a BA in Political Science and English, he holds a

Masters in Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, in the City of New York and has done graduate work at Yeshiva, Seton Hall and Rutgers Universities on the Holocaust, Genocide, Trauma and family Systems. He has been married to Dr. Maureen Fonseca for 36 years and they are proud to be the parents of Haba, Rini, Bing and Nzaba and guardians of Kami and Richard; a niece and a nephew and are happy owners of two dogs; Kitwo and Joline. They reside in Dobbs Ferry, New York.



**Ms. Vivian Adhiambo Onano Youth Advisor to the UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group, Women Deliver Young Leader and a Global Youth Advocate for the Mara Mentor Program.** Ms. Onano is a women and girls' advocate and youth leader who was born and raised in rural Kenya. Her arduous upbringing has forged her strong commitment to education, to women, and to leadership. Ms. Onano has a deep interest in re-defining Africa's growth and development. A Moremi fellow, she is recognized as one of the top 25 emerging women leaders with the courage to lead change on the African continent. Vivian recently graduated Carthage College and currently works with the African Leadership Academy as an External Relations Fellow. She has held various leadership positions, including serving as a Congressional District Leader for ONE Campaign in Wisconsin, a campus advocate for the United Nations Association-USA, and a Half the Sky Movement community ambassador. She is also the Education Spokesperson for Moremi Africa, a Global Youth Ambassador for A World At School, and a 2014 Change Maker Fellow with the Nantucket Project. Vivian has a diverse background working with a variety of organizations, including the MasterCard Foundation, where she served as an external reviewer for their scholarship program in Sub-Saharan Africa. As a blogger for Huffington Post, she uses her oral and written communication skills in

service of her passion — providing holistic and innovative approaches to solving community problems. Vivian actively advocates for women and girls' issues and youth entrepreneurship in Africa. Vivian is a respected speaker who often speaks on global education, finding one's passion and purpose, gender equality, youth entrepreneurship/empowerment, and international development. She has presented at the United Nations, Nexus Global Youth Summit, and the Clinton Global Initiative, among others. She also served as a United Nations Youth Representative and was profiled as one of the 70 outstanding leaders of United Nations Association -USA. Intel featured Vivian as a Girl Rising hero. Vivian has a vision and dream to help create an inclusive world for everyone. She can be reached via Twitter (@vivianonano).

**Professor Wangari Muta Maathai's quotes read by: Mr. Modou Cham, Administrator of WIT; Mr. Juan Chebly, World We Want 2015 Coordinator; Ms. Catherine Williams, Global Youth Advocate; Mr. Austin Schancio, World We Want; Ms. Elisabeth Murtori, WIT; Mr. Parth Shingala, WIT; Ms. Jillian Abballe, Program Associate General Board of Church & Society of The United Methodist Church; Ms. Lauren Berger, GBMUS; Ms. Lindsay Jean Ashby, International Council of Women; Dra. Luz Maria Utrera, President & Founder Fundacion Luz Maria; Mr. Ian O'Connor, Unitarian Universalist- UN Office**

**Our Sincere Appreciation goes to the Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations, Ms. Wanjira Mathai; Dr. Peg Snyder; Ms. Mia MacDonald; Mr. Martin Rowe; Ms. Seemin Qayum, UN Women; Ms. Lisa Merton, Marlboro Productions; Mr. Jonathan Granoff, Ms. Lindsay Ashby & Mr. Peter Ross.**