

NGO Committee on Sustainable Development – NGOCS D General Meeting Notes

SPEAKERS: Co-Chairs, Ms. Margo LaZaro and Dr. T. Bella Dinh-Zarr; Secretary, Modou Cham; Treasurers Kevin Cawley & Ms. Martha Kebalo, Special Guest Speakers: H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations & Ms. Hawa Diallo, UN/DPI NGO Relations Information Officer.

DATE/TIME: February 25th 2014, 2pm to 4pm

LOCATION: 2nd Floor of the Church Center, 777 UN Plaza -

Co-Chairs Ms. Margo LaZaro and Dr. T. Bella Dinh-Zarr welcomed Committee members and informed us that the NGOCS D has already co-sponsored 3 NGO related UN events since the beginning of the year. On March 13th we will be Co-sponsoring a side event with DPI for CSW58 on Transportation Impacting Women's Lives: The Missing Link in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and on March 20th for the International Day of Happiness in the Temporary UN GA Hall, an event on Social Entrepreneurs with top business leaders and the Ambassador of El Salvador.

Secretary Modou Cham read out the meeting notes from NGOCS D Executive Committee Conference Call Meeting on Jan. 31, 2014. The EC has voted to go back to a 2 signature per each Banking transaction beginning immediately. There will now be 3 signatures on file at Apple Savings Bank – the 2 Co-Chairs and the Treasurer and any combination of 2 these 3 signatures are necessary on all checks. The Executive Committee voted to have a Zero Tolerance Policy related to Bullying and Threats – this includes Cyber Bullying, beginning immediately.

Treasurer Kevin Cawley announced that 4 new members had just joined the NGOCS D at the Feb. 25th meeting. He gave everyone the account info including the current balance. Following his report he also elucidated why he was resigning from the NGOCS D, because his work with his NGO was changing and he will need spend less time at the UN and more time in Geneva. Margo and Bella thanked Kevin for his wonderful work with them and they mentioned that he would be missed, and they hoped that he would stay involved with the NGOCS D. The Co-Chairs invited Ms. Iryna Kurowyckj to the podium to introduce, Ms. Marta Kebalo, NGO Rep. for the World Federation of Ukrainian Women (ESOSOC) as the person being recommended by Iryna and the Co-Chairs to be the next Treasurer of the NGOCS D. Marta addressed the membership and Iryna made a motion to officially nominate Marta and Kevin Cawley plus many others seconded the motion. There was a vote by the membership and all present agreed that Marta Kebalo is now officially the Treasurer – and she will be filling out the Treasurer's remaining term of service.

The Co-Chairs Introduced Ms. Hawa Diallo, Information Officer for UN/DPI NGO Relations. She served in UN Peacekeeping Operations in Cambodia and Somalia as well as with UN-Habitat in Nairobi. Ms. Diallo was on the same page with both NGOCS D Co-Chairs, promoting Collaboration with NGOCS D and other committees. NGO Relations at DPI is creative, flexible and open to collaboration within DPI as well as with others. She said that the Co-Chairs previously said that they wanted to be more involved with other organizations and more synergy within common programs. What does it mean to collaborate? For example, a lot of people want to have time at the UN and join with ECOSCO and DPI. It is important at the UN to raise the voice of the NGOs in a meaningful way. Ms. Diallo strongly believes in youth representation, to match young people with organizations that don't have voices at the UN. This year, DPI will launch an NGO Connect app, so different NGOs can exchange information, expand networks, and share projects. NGOs can enter information about themselves. In January - June, they have about 7 NGO led projects, one will be youth led in early April, and the other will be from Farleigh Dickinson on how academia can play a role at the UN. The University-led sessions were established by her predecessor Gail to Lehigh University. There will be a DPI/NGO Conference on August 27, 28, and 29. The DPI conferences have been in New York, Mexico City, Paris, Bonn, etc. and in August the conference will be back in NYC. Also, movie theater screening is another different environment to open collaboration with civil society. Working our best to use technology to open the voice globally beyond NYC to the capitals. The Co-Chairs thanked Hawa for joining our meeting.

The Co-Chairs gave a warm welcome to H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations. He gave a presentation on "*Denmark's Solutions for Sustainable Communities.*" He elucidated that in

Denmark there are high taxes, buying one car is like buying three cars because of high taxes but nonetheless, citizens from Denmark have for several year been labeled the “happiest people” in the world.

"DENMARK'S SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES"

- All buy sustainable cars
- Need to invest a lot in education (high taxes), to even be able to offer free education
- Denmark is very old fashioned
- Denmark is such a green society
- The first to take steps towards green development with legislation in the 70's.
- Sustainability has been a very important part of the country.
- Industry tends to spoil common good while getting little penalty.
- They made a change and companies now assist in the development of a green economy and green industries.
- Used the same amount of energy that they used 30 years ago
- They also reduced oil usage by 6.4%
- They also reuse rainwater for toilets

Now how does Denmark make sure all of these tracks, climate issue, water issues, agriculture, all meet up to achieve sustainable development?

Denmark has a stable, secure, and inclusive society. Denmark was a WELFARE state before WWII, with high investments in education and healthcare services. It is a society based on safety and security but of course there are minor problems. Investments in good governance - top of Transparency list with least corruption. There are few police on the streets with little crime. Their Constitution was established in 1849 and was last revised in 1953. It did not say anything about human rights or political parties which emerged later in 1953. Denmark is traditionally a homogeneous society which has been changing with immigrants who have joined the work force. Environmental regulations in 1970s was initially seen as not pro-business. Windmill industry came in the 1970s when Denmark was totally dependent on oil. OOA was a strong civil society supporting clean energy. There were incentives to invest in technological development and in renewal energy. Now, Denmark has developed technology and reduced dependence on oil. They have Developed oil in the North Sea. Currently there are decisions in Parliament to reduce fossil fuels from 24% usage to zero by 2050. Denmark is now using same amount of energy as it did 30 years ago. Sustainable Energy for All is the SG's proposal with 3 goals: 1) access 2) double share of renewable energy; 3) double energy efficiency. In Copenhagen, UN agencies have Nordic headquarters in a building. There is an energy efficient hub - clearinghouse on regulations, efficiencies, technologies, etc. New building state-of-the-art will house 1,600 people in a 5 stories with solar panels which provide 1/3 of building's power; the rest from wind power. Reuse rain water in the toilets. For cooling system, take in cold sea water at the bottom of the building. Private building rented by Danish government which provides free rent to UN agencies. After some concern, now see that Denmark is bringing its environmental policies into the EU. Environment, gender equality and good governance is our focus. Active in the climate negotiations in Copenhagen which didn't go very well. UNEP has a Green Fund for technology transfers. Support capacity building with Ministries of Environment in other countries which need to be given power. South Africa will increase their level of wind energy and have been working with them. Denmark has tried to play an active role in Rio+20 and with the OWG on SDGs. There was a Q&A Session with Ambassador Petersen.

Meeting was adjourned:

Everyone posed for a photo together with Ambassador Ib Peterson~

Next NGOCSA General Meeting Wed., March 19th 2-4PM at the UN Plaza Hotel – with a Light Lunch available.