



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" ~*

NGOCSD General Membership Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2015

The Future Role of Major Groups & Stakeholders in the High Level Political Forum



Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Main UN NGO Representative for CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. Mr. Huffines was appointed as Co-Chair of the 65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference on the theme "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda, which took place at UN HQ (NY), 27-29 August 2014. Mr. Huffines has served as UN DESA NGO Major Group Organizing Partner since 2011 responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs in sustainable development activities at the UN. He also serves on the UN Post 2015 Strategic Outreach Planning Group and Beyond 2015/GCAP UN Working Group in New York and represents CIVICUS on the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) Working Group on Post-2015. Based in New York since 1996, Mr. Huffines was elected Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011) and previously served as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the

International Criminal Court (FENICC); senior advisor to the American NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court (AMICC); Chair of the UN Association/USA's New York Council of Organizations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations; co-founder of the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace; convener of the NY NGO Network on the 2005 Millennium Summit; and council member of the US Conference of Religions for Peace. He had previously served as Main UN Representative for the U.S. Baha'i Community and has taught as an adjunct professor at the Center for Global Affairs, New York University.

Stakeholder Partnership Building: Investing in the Future



H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Palau to the UN. He is the first native Palauan to hold this post. Ambassador Otto is a physician, former Director of Public Health in Palau before retiring from Ministry of Health in 2003. He served one term as a Senator in the National Congress. Before coming to New York he was Chairman of the Board of the Palau Conservation Society and a member of the Palau National Olympic Committee and was the team physician for the Palau National team at the London Olympics in 2012. Ambassador Otto is the founder of the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Palau and was the negotiator representing Palau on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control for which he received the WHO Director General Award in 2003. He championed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Palau, translated the

Convention into Palauan and was one of the authors of the first report of implementation of the Convention. His advocacy for human rights includes work on the Implementation of the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes as the means to ensure the rights of infants to breastmilk, work on Rights of Persons with Disability, Women's rights under CEDAW and rights of the Indigenous People, including protection of traditional and cultural heritage. During the recently concluded UN Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals, he led the efforts to include mental health and well-being in the targets under the goal on health and advocated for availability and access to water as matter of human rights. He also advocated strongly for a stand-alone goal on peaceful and stable society, grounded on tolerance, acceptance and understanding, as an important component of a firm foundation for sustainable development. With the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), he advocated for a stand-alone goal on Oceans and Climate change, respectively.



Ms. Nana Taona Kuo, Senior Manager – Every Women Every Child Health Team with the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General. Ms. Kuo is a development economist and public policy specialist by training, with over 14 years' experience in Global Health, rural development, HIV and public health, particularly in Asia and the Pacific. Every Woman Every Child is a special initiative of UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, launched in 2010, is an unprecedented global movement that mobilizes and intensifies international and national action by governments, the UN, civil society, private sector and multilaterals to save and improve the lives of millions of women and children around the world. Prior to joining the UN Secretary-General's Office, Ms. Kuo was the UNAIDS Country Coordinator a.i in China and spent over 5 years working in China with UNAIDS. She coordinated the China UN system support to the 4th

International Roundtable on China-Africa Health Cooperation, the first Roundtable to be held in Africa in Botswana, May 2013. She also provided inputs to the first Ministerial Forum of China-Africa Health Development under the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in August 2013, which recognized the role of international cooperation partners.



Ms. Yamina Djacta, Director the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, New York Office (UN-Habitat). Ms. Djacta has been working for many years in the areas of policy analysis, planning, programme development, management, capacity development, monitoring and evaluation. Ms. Djacta has been working for the United Nations for more than 20 years. Her United Nations experience began at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as an inter-regional adviser overseeing Public Administration modernization projects in Francophone Africa. She then joined UN-Habitat in January 1996 as the Coordinator of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit. She was subsequently reassigned to the UN-Habitat New York Office, where she served as Human Settlements Officer and then Deputy Director of the office.



Mr. Daniel Platz, Economic Affairs Officer in the Financing for Development Office of UN Department of Economic & Social Affairs (UN-DESA). Mr. Platz is an Economist in the Financing for Development Office of UN-DESA, which monitors and promotes the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. He is currently involved in the substantive preparations of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is tasked to develop an international financial framework to fund the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN development agenda for the next 15 years. Mr. Platz has contributed to many UN publications and made presentations at numerous national and international forums on issues related to development cooperation and infrastructure finance. His publications focus on development finance and effective financing mechanisms for investment in infrastructure sectors at the sub-sovereign level. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics and an MA in Global Political Economy and Finance from New School University in New York City. He also received two BAs, one in Political Science and one in Economics, from Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany.



Mr. Michael Drexler, Senior Director, Head of Investor Industries at the World Economic Forum based in New York, where he oversees the community of institutional and private investors. Mr. Drexler joined the Forum after nine years at Barclays, where he most recently was Managing Director and Global Head of Strategy, Commercial/Investment Banking and Wealth Management. At Barclays, he also held positions in Principal Investments and Finance as well as Chief of Staff to the Chairman. He joined Barclays Capital in 2002 from McKinsey & Company. Prior to that, Drexler was an academic researcher at Stanford University. He holds a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Oxford and an MSc in Electronic Engineering from the Technical University at Munich. He is a member of the Forum of Young Global Leaders.



Ms. Samira Salman, JD - Founder & CEO, Salman Solutions & Senior Advisor of the Think Global Institute, a Global Institute for Women Entrepreneurs. Ms. Salman has advised executives, built companies, and raised capital. A strategic planner and business development specialist, she harnesses her experience in corporate and tax law, entrepreneurial endeavors, non-profit positions, and participation in international relations missions to devise best-practices strategies suitable for each client. Passionate and insightful, she deploys a fearless approach preparing and supporting clients for the next level and beyond. She engages in global projects with passion, intensity, and a sincere commitment to excellence. Combining her knowledge and experience across many disciplines with a diverse, globally influenced perspective, she yields solutions that transcend standard methodologies. Specifically, she has crafted a unique ability to determine a company vision, diagnose shortcomings, and expediently provide an action-oriented strategy. With a discerning and sophisticated approach to achieving these goals for each business, she detects nuances others might overlook. And she recommends and helps implement strategies that guide people, businesses, and ventures to levels of optimal performance. Together with her team, she has proven that business “miracles” can happen. In a relatively short time frame, she has helped companies raise millions in capital, deploy turnkey operational strategies, and structurally realign resources that impact communities with positive results locally and globally. She holds equity in several business and entrepreneurial ventures.



Mr. Vadim Belikov, President and CEO of the Next Generation Energy Leaders Council and Vice-Chairman of the G8 Youth Summit, Vice-President of the Board of the Business Assembly of the G-20Y Summit IOC (NGO), Vice-President of the International Youth Diplomacy League (NGO), and the CEO of “PSD” Development Company in real estate in Saint Petersburg. Mr. Belikov is an Honorary Adviser and Program Project Director on Sustainable & Renewable Energy for the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development. Also, he is involved in consultation with international energy companies and advises a variety of international clients on investments in sustainable energy and development in Russia and globally as the owner of his own consulting company “Global Consulting.” For the past 19 years he worked on initiatives for sustainable development businesses and has contributed to international non-profit projects (NGOs). Over the past 8 years he has taken part a number of summits, forums and scientific conferences, globally. In addition, to his Master degree in World Policy from the School of International Relations in North-Western Institute of the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, he is preparing PhD dissertation examined the influence and decision-making systems of the global institutes in relation to modern threats of climate change to humanity.



Ms. Hadia Sheerazi, Advisor, Youth and Enterprise – Commonwealth Businesswomen (CBW) Global Champion – Empower Women Campaign, an Amplifier for Girl Be Heard. Ms. Sheerazi was born and raised in Pakistan and came to the United States in 2006 as a Presidential Scholar at St. John's University. As an undergraduate she was inducted into six national honor societies as well as the President's Society and Skull & Circle Honor Society. She was awarded the Gold Key (Economics), John J. Coffey Award, Martin Luther King Jr. & St. Vincent de Paul Leadership Award, and was named to *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*. She graduated summa cum laude as the Commencement Speaker and Student Marshall in 2010. She went on to serve as Pro Bono Coordinator at the international law firm, Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP, managing all pro bono matters, partnerships and legal clinics across five cities.

She returned to St. John's to serve as Graduate Assistant to the Executive Vice President and obtained an MA in International Relations. Currently, she is studying Sustainability Management at Columbia University, and is the Campus Ambassador for *Half the Sky* and the ONE Campaign. She is an Advisor on Youth and Enterprise to Commonwealth Businesswomen, Peace Wall Ambassador for CITYarts, Amplifier for Girl Be Heard, Advisory Board Member of Cristo Rey High School, Global Youth Ambassador for A World At School, and served as Team Leader of the Grants Advisory Committee of The New York Women's Foundation. Ms. Sheerazi has participated as a youth delegate at the UN ECOSOC Youth Forum and UN Youth Assembly, and was named as an Empower Women Global Champion.



Mr. Bruce Knotts, Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association, UN Office. Mr. Knotts has earned his BA from Pepperdine University and MA from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia; worked for Raytheon in Saudi Arabia (1976-80) and on a World Bank contract in Somalia (1982-4), before he joined the Department of State as a U.S. diplomat in 1984. He had diplomatic assignments in Greece, Zambia, India, Pakistan, Kenya, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire and The Gambia, where he was Deputy Chief of Mission. While in Cote d'Ivoire, he served as the Regional Refugee Coordinator for West Africa covering 16 African nations, but focusing on the refugees from the conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia and in Cote d'Ivoire. This was the assignment where he had his most sustained contact with the UN system. Mr. Knotts evaluated programs and recommended funding for UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and many NGOs working with refugees in West Africa. He worked closely with several UN Special Representatives and observed UN peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone from 2000-2003. He retired from the Foreign Service in 2007 and joined the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) as its Executive Director at the beginning of 2008. Mr. Knotts has been a chair of the UN NGO Committee on Human Rights since June 2010. He is the President and CEO of the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security and a member of the NGO UN Security Council Working Group. In December 2013, he was elected to the Executive Board of the UN NGO Committee on Sustainable Development.

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Ms. Lynnaia Main, Global Relations Officer for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church. As the Church's main representative to the United Nations, on behalf of its Presiding Bishop and The Episcopal Church, she represents positions through advocacy, presence and hospitality, and fosters relationships between Episcopalians and the United Nations. With fellow Episcopalians, Ms. Main has collaborated over the past four years to enhance the Church's profile at the UN, including shepherding the application process that led to its granting of ECOSOC special consultative status in 2014. The Episcopal Church has worked actively at and with the UN system in supporting the Millennium Development Goals, empowering women, girls, indigenous peoples and marginalized communities, raising awareness about human trafficking, caring for migrants and resettling refugees and more. The Episcopal Church is one of 38 member provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion and Main collaborates with the Anglican Communion's representatives and offices to the UN, and other ecumenical partners, on issues of mutual concern. Prior to joining The Episcopal Church's staff, Ms. Main lectured in international relations at the University of Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal) in Durban, South Africa and worked at the Division of Basic Education in the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organization in Paris, France. She is originally from New Jersey and worships at the Eglise Française du Saint Esprit in Manhattan.

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