



## Co 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" ~*

### JANUARY MEETING RESCHEDULED

**Our January NGOCS D General Membership Meeting is now Friday, January 30th 2015 ~ Time: 2-4PM  
2nd Floor of the UN Church Center, 777 United Nations Plaza (located at E. 44th St. & First Ave.)**



**Ms. Jennifer Kushell, CEO of Young & Successful Media and Founder of Your Success Now (YSN.com)** — a leading career and entrepreneurial resource that arms young people in over 160 countries with tools to discover their passions, launch their careers, and build their own ventures. Specializing in youth empowerment, employment and entrepreneurship, Ms. Kushell has sculpted numerous programs, promotions and initiatives targeting students, young professionals and business owners while increasing the amount of information, resources and support available internationally. Recent projects and clients have included the US State Department, The Global Entrepreneurship Summit, The US Department of Labor/Job Corps,

Education for Employment, The International Franchise Association, The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, Students in Free Enterprise, Junior Chamber International, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Subway, Visa, American Express, and the G8 Young Summit. Author of the New York Times bestseller *Secrets of the Young & Successful*, Ms. Kushell has been called the "Career Doctor" by Cosmopolitan, and "guru" of her generation by US News & World Report. A relentless advocate for the emerging workforce, she has traveled almost 2 million miles and visited 50 countries, trained tens of thousands of young people, and impacted the lives and futures of millions.



**Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Senior Programme Management Officer on Intergovernmental Policy Co-ordination with the United Nations Environment Programme-NY Office.** Mr. Laguna-Celis is a diplomat, author and internationally renowned expert on global sustainable development policies and sustainable development governance. Jorge began his career in 2003 as an international consultant for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris where he worked for the Directorate of Public Governance and Territorial Development. In 2005 he joined the Mexican Foreign Service where he worked on international migration and development issues. From 2006 to 2010 he served as deputy chief

of the Mexican Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya and deputy permanent representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). During that period, he was also appointed member of the High Level Advisory Panel of the Fifth Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-5) in representation of the Latin American and the Caribbean region. From 2010 to 2013, Jorge was a lead negotiator during the Rio+20 Conference and senior delegate to the Second Committee of the General Assembly (UNGA) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) where he chaired negotiations of resolutions leading to the establishment of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the reform of the ECOSOC. In June 2013 Jorge was appointed by the President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. John W. Ashe, as his Senior Advisor for sustainable development and the post 2015 development agenda. In that capacity he was instrumental in preparing the ground for the process of negotiations leading to the September 2015 Summit that will agree on a new set of Sustainable Development Goals. His latest book, entitled "From Rio+20 to a New Development Agenda: Building a Bridge to a Sustainable Future", was published in 2014 by Routledge. He holds a BA in International Relations from El Colegio de México, Mexico City, and an MA in International Trade from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences-Po) Paris, where he was an Eiffel scholar. Jorge is a national of Mexico.

## January NGOCS D General Membership Meeting, Friday, January 30th 2015 ~ Continued



### **Ms. Zubaida Rasul-Ronning, Co-Founder and Vice President Business**

**Development/Strategic Operations of GreenGrow Ventures Inc.**, an organic technology company that works primarily in Africa and Middle East. GreenGrow currently has projects in Morocco, Tanzania and East Africa, and Ghana promoting the adoption of organic fertilizer and cutting edge development technology using renewable resources. In the past, Ms. Rasul-Ronning has worked in international peacemaking, mediation and development for over 16 years in Africa, Middle East and Eastern Europe. An expert in governance, political and security analysis, she has been at the forefront of politico-economic risk and environmental

analysis in Angola, Bosnia i Herzegovina, Guinea-Bissau and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and in North Africa and the Middle East. She has extensive government, business and private sector contacts throughout Africa, Asia and the Middle East and her corporate experience includes working for Deutsche Bank AG. Ms. Rasul-Ronning has a degree in International Business, from Thunderbird School of Global Management (Arizona, USA), and a Masters of Arts in Human Rights, from Columbia University (New York). She is a Canadian national, who speaks French, Portuguese, German and Hindi fluently and has working capacity in Arabic and Swahili.



**Mr. Gordon M. Tapper, Founder and Chairman of Give Them a Hand Foundation.** One of Mr. Tapper's main focuses is in giving support to Rural Women in Agriculture whom he sees as the backbone of food security in most of the developing world. He has had a long and distinguished career of over 35 years of service at the United Nations, and is a former Chief of Section in the Department of Administration and Management. Mr. Tapper numbers amongst his more important contributions at the UN, his participation in the first fair and free elections held in South Africa as a member of the UNOMSA mission. Then he was assigned to

Kwazulu/Natal where he established and supervised electoral offices and meetings of the peace processes. In 2004 and while still a UN Staff Member Mr. Tapper founded the Non- Profit Organization, Give Them a Hand Foundation (GTAH) primarily so that staff members like himself could help needy peoples on the ground. In this way several UN staff members and family members have been able to help with clean-up activities after Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy, the earthquake in Haiti and on medical and humanitarian missions to several countries. Under his leadership, GTAH has hosted an annual Interfaith Harmony week program each February since 2012. GTAH with partnering organizations also hosted the first Ebola Forum at the United Nations in August of last year, in the ECOSOC Chamber with the participation of ambassadors of the three most affected countries. He is a proud native of Jamaica in the West Indies. He is a graduate of Pace University in New York City from which he graduated with a degree in Business Administration.



### **Mr. Ben Flanner, CEO/Co-Founder and Head Farmer of the Brooklyn Grange Rooftop Farm, in New York City.**

A pioneering urban farm operation, the business produces vegetables, herbs, and honey on over 2 ½ acres of intensive green roofs, and sells its produce via restaurants, farmer's markets, and CSAs. Brooklyn Grange is widely recognized as a world leader in urban agriculture, with an unwavering drive to develop the industry with an exceptional green and community minded business. Prior to founding the Brooklyn Grange, Mr. Flanner Co-founded and managed the Eagle Street Rooftop Farm. He has a BS degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Wisconsin, and prior experience in management consulting and marketing.

The Brooklyn Grange received the LICBDC Green Business Award in 2010, the Green Roofs for Healthy Cities Award of Excellence in 2011, and Queens Community Business Award from Mayor Bloomberg's office in 2012. Mr. Flanner was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and currently resides in Brooklyn, New York. He has presented to audiences including NYU Stern Business School, Central European University, Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), Slow Money, Barcelona's Smart City World Expo, MAHA Agriculture Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, numerous Northeastern Horticultural Societies, and has been a guest on dozens of panels and university classes. He teaches urban agriculture courses in multiple cities in North America, and a course in the Environmental Studies Department at New York University (NYU).