

## NGOCSD-NY General Membership Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 2016, 1 – 4 PM at the United Nations, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Church Center for the UN, 777 UN Plaza

Submitted by Jun Cao for Chris Dekki

Co-Chairs Margo LaZaro and Yvonne O’Neal welcomed everyone to the meeting. Co-Chairs reminded everyone to pay their membership dues in order to vote as a committee member. Margo LaZaro announced that Dr. David Nabarro’s video will be available on NGOCSN-NY’s website soon. The Co-Chairs announced that NGOCSN-NY will be cosponsoring a high-level event with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to UN for the Expo 2017 at ECOSOC Chamber on May 31st. NGOCSN-NY is going to be participating in High-Level Political Forum happening in July as a member of the NGO major group.

Margo welcomed Ms. Alexandria Akira, a member of NGOCSN-NY Executive Board to share in updates on sustainable development projects that she has been working on. Ms. Akira began her statement by elucidating her new business adventures, especially the global deployment program for Kulicide. Interested parties and involved partners of the program include UNEP, UNDP, Every Women Every Child, the President’s Millennium Initiative, Gates Foundation, etc. The program leaders have spoken with Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Kenya’s officials. And Kenya has set up a lab test and a field test for the program. Ms. Akira’s organization will be joining the forces with Kenya people on deploying all of the 47 counties in Kenya. The deployment program received messages from the Governor of Louisiana, from the Governor of Texas, and high level stakeholders in Mexico to express their interests in deploying Kulicide. University of Florida is interested in conducting a test for Kulicide so the program can receive further endorsement from WHO and PAHO. Ms. Akira was hoping that Kulicide can replace existing chemicals on which the mosquitos have built very strong resistance against and contribute to the achievement of 2017 agenda.

Margo and Yvonne introduced Ms. Hawa Diallo, the Public Information Officer in NGO Relations, Advocacy and Special Events Section of the Department of Public Information. Ms. Hawa Diallo thanked everyone for coming and elucidated the history and mission of UN DPI. She pointed out that DPI values the role of over 1,500 NGOs that are currently associated with DPI. Every year, DPI evaluated its associated NGOs to determine if they have fulfilled their association responsibilities. The Annual Review also became a way to update database of all DPI-associated NGOs and demonstrate the value of works that NGOs did. The benefits of associating with DPI include sharing a great resource with those that share a common purpose, networking with professionals at UN and working together to make a difference. DPI introduced an online platform as a new way for NGOs to apply for the association. As a member, NGOs can expect the access to Thursday Briefings, resources center, networking sessions, DPI conferences, etc. The 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference is taking place this year from 30 May – 1 June in Gyeongju, Korea and its theme is “Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together”. The 66th Conference has an Executive Board with 3 co-chairs and 12 sub-committees, and a national organizing committee in Korea. The Conference provides a unique opportunity for participating NGOs to engage members of civil society, diplomats, United Nations officials, policy experts, scientists, educators, businesses, trade unions, parliamentarians, local authorities and youth from around the world in discussing key issues related to SDG 4 – Quality Education. Ms. Diallo specifically introduced a series of events for youth presented by youth sub-committee during the conference. She welcomed everyone to participate in the 66th Conference in person in Gyeongju and New York City, and online through social media.

Margo and Yvonne introduced Mr. Felix Dodds, a Fellow at the Global Research Institute, a Senior Affiliate at the University of North Carolina and an Associate Fellow at the Tellus Institute. Mr. Dodds chaired the UN NGO DPI conference “Sustainable Societies Responsive Citizens” in the year 2011. He elucidated the significant impact of organizing the 2011 Conference around 17 SDGs and their targets. Ideas and suggestions from that conference were drawn into the UN Policy Briefing Notes by UN-DESA on the subject for Rio+20s. The conference is playing an absolutely important role in starting the conversation off and defining the conversation. Mr. Dodd has written or edited 13 books, out last week was “The Water, Food, Energy and Climate Nexus: Challenges and an Agenda for Action”. He hoped his book will help the next generation in understanding the challenges and transformations in the context of what have been achieved. He also discussed new rules for partnership after new rules have been negotiated and elucidated three levels of partnership. Under current framework, anyone working on a particular target will be grouped together to generate a platform. Mr. Dodds then introduced the outcome and programme of the first meeting of the Finance for Development (FfD) forum and its important role in implementing the Addis Agreement and monitoring the 17 SDGs implementation process. He pointed out that it is worth noting that financing activities mostly happened in banks and IMF meeting and didn’t happen in ECOSOC forum. Interagency taskforce report is one of the best achievement from the FfD forum. Mr. Dodds was hoping the report will play increasingly important role in the future. He also discussed whether the new international financial regulations should be introduced, and how much older development system was now being shifted to the refugee crisis. He summarized the outcomes of the forum as such – “We came, what we come to talk about, the Agency Report, and we will come again”. He continued to discuss the topic of private sector finance and elucidated his effort in encouraging private sector to produce their Environmental, Social and Governance Impact Reports. He closed the speech by quoting the statement that president of the General Assembly made on the High Level Event on the Implementation of the Climate and Development Agendas. “Indeed, one idea emerging from yesterday’s High Level Thematic Debate, is to establish some form of Advisory Committee, where experts from the finance ecosystem could help identify ways to get private finance, especially capital markets, aligned with and driving investment in the SDGs. “ Links to Felix’s Dodds’ Blog are on our website: [www.ngocsd-ny.org](http://www.ngocsd-ny.org)

Margo and Yvonne introduced Dr. Jan W Dash, the Lead Climate Advisor to the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development – NY. Dr. Wash began his statement by pointing out that we humans are causing global warming and far worse disasters will happen if we do not act. Climate change is a survival issue and a justice/ethnics issue. All sustainable development goals are tied to Goal 13 – Climate Action. We can mitigate climate change by recognizing the problem and adopt the Climate Change Risk Management scheme. We need to action on all levels from local to global include individuals, NGOs, businesses, cities, and governments. Dr. Dash

elucidated the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) – a new international climate agreement by the conclusion of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris in December 2015. He pointed out that the current INDCs are not sufficient to combat climate change and to meet the 2°C goal and we need stronger INDCs. The next step on the way forward after signing the Paris Agreement is ratification. Currently, the implementation and ratifications by countries (i.e. U.S. and China) are all ahead of schedule, which could be seen as a good sign. Paris Climate Agreement becomes effective once 55 countries ratify with at least 55% of the global greenhouse gas emissions. In private sector, over 100 businesses expressed their support for the Paris Agreement, the Clean Power Plan and the Low Carbon Economy. Dr. Dash concluded his speech by giving a list of what we can do to help the Paris Agreement take effect. For instance, we should urge stronger and more ambitious INDCs in U.S. and we can form a Climate Action Team within our NGOs. Most importantly, we must be optimistic and start from ourselves.

Margo and Yvonne introduced Mr. Juan Elias Chebly, the Lead Adviser to the UN Environment Programmes' Secretariat of Governing Bodies, and also the Founder and CEO of [voipebox.com](http://voipebox.com). Mr. Chebly shared an anecdote of his recent meeting with NGO Committee on Spirituality at UN. He pointed out that the environment is not only related to our own well-being, but also related to the well-being of the generation to come. He then elucidated several milestone achievements in UN history, such as the creation of UNEP at 1972's UN Conference on the Human Environment, the Kyoto Protocol, the Montreal Protocol, etc. In the second Environment Assembly, it was decided that the work of UNEP would no longer being decided by a small group of steering committees and member states, but rather by the universal agenda of the Ministers of the Environment from all over the world to see how we can deliver on environmental challenges. Mr. Chebly further explained the impact of environment changes on human health, such as plastic pollutions, air pollutions, etc. He also looked at the situations of conflict at several specific regions of the world, such as Middle East, North Africa, and its impact on human health in those regions. Mr. Chebly also mentioned that the society needs to create sustainable development incentives to hold corporations accountable for climate change and environment protection. The Environment Assembly gives examples of programs have been done throughout the world. A series of special side events, include partnerships forum, science and policy forum, and stakeholder forum, will be held by UNEP. Mr. Chebly also suggested that civil society could contribute a lot more to the resolutions coming up next year. Paris Agreement and SDG 2030 are not ambitious but are exactly what need to happen in the next 15 years. UNEA is a universal body from the UN and deliver actual resolutions. In the end, Mr. Chebly encouraged civil society to play a more active role during UNEA-2 session and throughout their everyday life. "The doors of UN Environmental Office here in New York are open to you. I am here to serve each one of you and your countries."

Margo and Yvonne introduced Mr. Christopher Dekki, the moderator for the second and third session, the Secretary of NGOCS-D-NY, and the Coordinator of the International Movement of Catholic Student. Mr. Dekki introduced the Communitas Coalition, the coalition for sustainable cities and regions in the new UN Development Agenda. It acts as a two-fold platform supporting the intergovernmental process on the global Post-2015 Development Agenda and its SDGs, and on the Habitat III. Mr. Dekki also introduced the International Movement of Catholic Students, an organization that brings together over 80 diverse national federations, associations, and movements of Catholic University and tertiary students from six regions.

Mr. Dekki introduced Dr. Eugénie L. Birch, the Nussdor Professor of Urban Research in the Department of City and Regional Planning, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Birch began her statement by introducing the General Assembly of Partners (GAP), a special invitation of the World Urban Campaign that aims to support stakeholders' engagement and contributions to the Habitat III conference. GAP consists of 15 Partner Constituent Groups with members from the United Nations' major groups and other relevant stakeholders. GAP is very important because it reduced the cacophony of numbers of people who were talking to the member states. There are 250,000 local government groups, representatives for 655 million workers, 500,000 members of grassroots organizations, more than 300 parliamentarians are involved. It comes as a direct response to the need for partnerships between governments and civil society organizations, local authorities, the private sector, the research community, trade unions, parliamentarians, professional organizations, youth and women groups, in order to achieve sustainable urban development. The New Urban Agenda consists of three major parts. The first part states the principles and values that are believed to be important for shaping partnerships. Part II proposes the enabling framework that we are going to need to achieve sustainable development. Part III calls upon member states to include what they think about engagement after the New Urban Agenda is written. For instance, Part III suggests member states to encourage and promote evidence based policy, share priorities, advance and pilot programs organized by multiple partners, establish monitoring mechanism, and encourage and attract major investment by International Financial Institutions. The New Urban Agenda asks member states to announce a decade sustainable urbanization. "We want to make sure that in the next decade we get the foundations right, and we do it with strong civil society engagement", Dr. Birch Concluded.

Mr. Dekki introduced Ms. Jan Peterson, the Chair of the Huairou Commission, and the founder of the National Congress of Neighborhood Women, GROOTS International, and the Huairou Commission. Ms. Peterson firstly pointed out the fact that Habitat III unprecedentedly opens up a process that enables multi-stakeholders to engage with each other, which differentiates itself from any other processes that Ms. Peterson has experienced in past twenty years. She further brought up two questions to the audience – "Will we really have a gender urban agenda?" and "Will we have grassroots people's priorities really in this urban agenda?" Ms. Peterson declares, "Women go into the UN processes and they don't speak up for themselves as women and other women. They act like everything is gender neutral." She stressed the importance of including gender policies in the New Urban Agenda, especially giving the fact that the gender gap is expanding with time. Huairou Commission endeavors to increase women participation in the policy making process. "Women all over the world with the Huairou Commission now have joined the policy events. "She called it "a historic moment" as it is the first time ever that grassroots women were in policy events and were seeing as experts. Ms. Peterson further pointed out that same rules also apply to youth and grassroots. She welcomed everyone to check the midterm review paper on

Mr. Dekki introduced Ms. Jane Anyango, the Executive Director and Founder of the Polycom Development Project in Kibera, Kenya. Kibera is the largest slum in Nairobi, Kenya and the largest urban slum in Africa. Ms. Anyango shared her experience of becoming a founding member of the Polycom Development Project with NGOCSA members. Working with UN Habitat for a long time, Ms. Anyango organized the project events on school campus focusing on safety promotions among young girls. Polycom was started in response to the sexual violence and exploitation faced by young girls in Kibera. It has strong partnerships in the community with schools and with media, and it has successfully held a number of large, open events that demonstrates its presence on the ground. Ms. Anyango elucidated the interconnections among 17 sustainable development goals. She also pointed out several challenges facing by programs in the data collection process. For instance, in the education program, lack of data makes it difficult to identify the real reason that a female student missed her classes. Similar challenges also faced by Polycom's hygiene and sanitation programs. It is worth noting that the actual situation might be very different than it looks like from outside. Ms. Anyango said, "Please counsel with us and talk to us. Let's discuss it together, plan it together, implement it together, and leave us to monitor it."

Mr. Dekki introduced Ms. Magdalena G García Hernández, the Directora General, Bufete de Estudios Interdisciplinarios A. C. Iberoamerican Network for Budget Equality between Men and Women. Ms. Hernández thanked the NGOCSA for the opportunity to present her work in front of committee members. She cited connections with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the landmark UN agreement to support women's rights. Their work focused on building agenda at local, national and global three levels. Ms. Hernández shared her experience in Mexico, where civil society, government, academia, and stakeholders of every part have been participated in the New Urban Agenda building process under her effort. A large group of community members have contributed to the 22 stock taking papers on relevant topics. Ms. Hernández also shared her concerns regarding the process, such as the participation issue and information sharing issue. She pointed out that it's important for the participants to have the knowledge and expertise regarding the discussing problem. Ms. Hernández is very happy that she can be a part of the process.

The meeting moves forward to discuss the topic of High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and Stakeholder Engagement for the 2030 Agenda. Mr. Dekki introduced the HLPF as the body that meant to oversee the implementation follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. HLPF is also the body invent to assure that there is coherence among a number of UN processes that have impact on sustainable development. It will take place every year under the auspices of ECOSOC and then every four years under the auspices of both ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

Mr. Dekki introduced Ms. Norine Kennedy, the Vice President, Environment, Energy & Strategic International Engagement of the United States Council for International Business (USCIB). Ms. Kennedy started by introducing USCIB and the Business/Industry Major Group. USCIB advances the global interests of American business by providing unparalleled access to international policy makers and regulatory authorities. It is a unique U.S. business group that works in international sustainability policy since 1992. USCIB represents 300 Fortune 500 companies, and is connected to many large international business networks (i.e. International Chamber of Commerce, Global Business Alliance for 2030, the international Organization of Employers, etc.) With countless business groups under the Global Business Alliance umbrella, it becomes very challenging to get all of them point to the same direction for SDGs and 2030 Agenda. USCIB offers a platform to bring businesses into the sustainable development conversation and help businesses ready-to-move to build 17 SDGs into their business plans. Ms. Kennedy then gives several suggestions regarding business engagement architecture for HLPF from USCIB's perspective. She recommended to establish a dedicated coordinating group for businesses and industry, where the coordinated mechanism could provide detail guidance that many major group stakeholders are seeking. More descriptive information is provided in terms of how the alliance would governance themselves in a more transparent way. Given the fact that 17 SDGs could be complicated to businesses and industry, USCIB built a web platform to help business group to understand SDGs and 2030 process. The Business for 2030 website showcases business' past and continuing contribution to sustainable development through SDGs and aims to stimulate a more productive partnership between the public and private sectors at the UN and at national levels. Ms. Kennedy also made several comments on the elements of the HLPF, such as taking all 17 SDGs as an integrated scheme, giving special focus on the sustainable development challenges for countries in special situations, reaffirming stakeholders' role, having specific provision for civil society and private sector to report on commitments to implement SDGs, and reviewing organizations of DESA. Ms. Kennedy pointed out that from business and industry standpoint, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs are powerful because they invited and reflected major group of stakeholders' views. They are looking forward to seeing institutional innovation and evolution to reflect and operationalize full implementation of 2030 Agenda. She also suggested that the role of major group stakeholders should be mainstreamed through the 2030 Agenda system. And existing reporting tools could be used as models to shape the evidence based contributions to the HLPF.

Mr. Dekki introduced Ms. Naiara Costa Chaves, the director of International Secretariat Together 2030. Ms. Chaves introduced Together 2030 as an initiative that brings together partners across the globe around national implementation and tracking progress of 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. She pointed out that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda creates a unique opportunity to promote the transformative potential of the new Agenda at all levels. The implementation process requires not only a strong leadership from governments, but also the engagement of much broader constituencies and the set-up of more creative coalitions and joined up advocacy. She further suggested that a participatory process has to be developed, experienced and monitors at all levels, and the multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach is going to be critical. Ms. Chaves elucidated three major objectives of Together 2030 – to generate knowledge and project voices, to formulate and implement roadmaps, and to share knowledge and experience among civil society and stakeholders. The Together 2030 starts with a group of six organizations (i.e. CEPEI, JDPC, etc.), which became the core group of founding organizations later. The Together 2030 aims to collaborate with a broad and diverse "ecosystem" of initiatives, platforms and partnerships that may be established in following up on the 2030 Agenda. Ms. Chaves welcomed everyone to join 327 organizations that are now in the network to support the key goals of Together 2030. She said, "Together 2030 is open to civil society, non-governmental, and nonprofit stakeholders around the world". Together 2030 activities for members include webinars, taskforces and working group, information and resources center, and blog post space. It also publishes perception surveys, papers regarding engagement with the HLPF, and follow up and review papers. From global advocacy to local implementation, Ms. Chaves pointed out that it's challenging to keep the inter-linkages and bring the voices from the local to the global level. Follow up and review needs to be done as the Agenda is not done at the global level. The HLPF has the expectations to be the center for follow up and review at the

global level. She concluded her statement by calling upon civil society, major groups and stakeholders to actively engage, continuously advocate and monitor the process to make the Agenda more complete.

Mr. Dekki introduced Ms. Frances Zainoeddin, the Representative to the UN of Gray Panthers. Ms. Zainoeddin elucidated the definition and the operating mechanism of HLPF. HLPF meets 8 days annually under the auspices of ECOSOC and then meets two days every four years under the auspices of both ECOSOC and the General Assembly. Questions were brought by member states during the informal consultation process yesterday regarding aligning the theme of HLPF with ECOSOC but not the other way around. The sophisticated nature of UN system increases the complexity of how HLPF is going to function. A lot of debates are going on in regards of HLPF's operating mechanism and the expected outcomes from HLPF. During the informal consultation, member states proposed that the HLPF should have a specific item on its agenda to provide for discussion on NGOs' work, if NGOs and civil society are expected to report on their activities according to paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda. Ms. Zainoeddin took this suggestion as a way for member states to become aware of non-state actors' work, and to make recommendations for future action. "We want actions not just about taking notes", she said. Ms. Zainoeddin proposed to use HLPF coordination mechanism to address questions about how to consolidate NGOs and major groups stakeholders' decision with respect to HLPF procedures and then to support each other's push for those decisions. Ms. Zainoeddin also brought up several good questions about the national support - What happens at the national level in terms of our participation when there is no national report? What do we need to focus on in participating and the follow-up review when there is no national report submitted? What should our report look like? She pointed out that we need to find better ways of getting our message across and get feedback and reaction from member states. Ms. Zainoeddin made several suggestions regarding how to prepare an effective report. She pointed out that the report should avoid finger pointing all the time, and should highlight areas where we are contributing and can contribute. The recommendations should be specific and actionable. The most importantly, we should make sure that no one is left behind.

Mr. Dekki introduced Mr. Aashish Khullar, Board member at the Organizing Partner Children and Youth International of UN Major Group for Children and Youth. UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY) is the official and self-organized space for children and youth in certain intergovernmental and allied process at the United Nations. Any individual 30 years old or under, and any organization that either represents the interest of children and youth with a policy making body controlled by people 30 or younger, or works with children and youth can be a member. Mr. Khullar elucidated the governance structure (i.e. Internal & External Working Groups) and the process of engagement (i.e. Policy Design, Policy Implementation, Policy Monitoring, Policy Review) of the UN MGCY. Mr. Khullar said that UNMGCY's main focus is the policy design process in past two years. They actively participated in the negotiation of SDGs, Sendai Framework, and Habitat III process. Member organizations of UNMGCY have been involved in reporting the activities regarding the specific targets of SDGs for the policy implementation process. UNMGCY endeavors to engage young people into the national review process and increase youth participation at national level. Mr. Khullar used the 2030 Agenda, the Financing for Development, the Small Island Developing States, Sustainable Consumption & Production, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Humanitarian Summit, Habitat III's New Urban Agenda, and the HLPF, as examples to explain how the engagement process work at each stage and why it is an intergovernmental and multilateral process. He specifically mentioned that the disaster risk reduction process was more sound and progressive for the area of disaster reduction than others in regards of SDG indicators. Mr. Khullar also included the topic of the Science Policy Interface (SPI) and the Youth Gateway in his presentation. He welcomed everyone to check the presentation slides on NGOCS's website. More information about UNMGCY will be available on the organization's official website and social media websites.

There were brief reflections from a number of NGOs followed by a lively Q&A session.

Meeting was adjourned at about 4:00 PM.