



## 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" ~*

**NGO Committee on Sustainable Development Roundtable: Thursday, Nov. 13th, 2014**

**“The Importance of Building a Culture of Peace for a Sustainable Future”**

**Moderators: Co-Chairs: Margo LaZaro & Yvonne O’Neal**



**Dr. William F. Vendley is the Secretary General of *Religions for Peace International*** the world’s largest and most representative multi-religious coalition advancing concrete action for peace. He is a pioneer in advancing multi-religious cooperation to help resolve conflict and has been engaged in multi-religious peacemaking efforts in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Liberia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Iraq, and other countries. Dr. Vendley is an advisor to a number of governments on matters related to religion and peace. He advised US President Barack Obama through his service on the Multi-religious Cooperation and International Affairs Task Force of the White House Faith-Based Council. He was recently appointed by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as one of ten members of the US State Department’s Advisory Committee on Strategic Partnership with Civil Society and is a Co-chair of the Religion and Foreign Policy Working Group. Dr. Vendley is a recipient of the UNICEF Lifetime Achievement Award.



**H.E. Ambassador Carlos Garcia is a career diplomat that served his country in the United Nations** from July 1, 1996 to June 17, 2014. He is the former Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations and currently contributes to the analysis, assessment and promotion of the international relations, in particular the multilateral affairs and the United Nations agenda as Founder and CEO of CG Global Consultant. During his long standing career in New York, Ambassador Carlos Garcia was in charge of the political, economic, financial, social peace and security, humanitarian, environmental and human rights issues, having held several positions, on behalf of the Latin American and the Caribbean States, such as: President of the General Assembly’s Fourth Committee (2013-2014); Vice- President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC 2013-2014); Vice-Chairman of the Commission for Social Development (2013-2014); Vice-Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women (2012-2014); Vice-President of the Executive Board of UNDP-UNFPA-UNOPS (2011) among other General Assembly’s Vice-Presidencies at the Second and Third Committees, as well as Rapporteur of the Joint Executive Boards field visits to Azerbaijan (2005) and Guatemala (2004).



**Ms. Sally Kader, Founder and President of the United States Federation for Middle East Peace**, a bipartisan, non-profit and non-governmental organization, which has thirteen chapters around the world including its headquarters in New York City. She has been recognized by world leaders and organizations for her contributions towards peace. Ms. Kader, who was born in Beirut Lebanon, holds a Bachelor’s Degree in History and Archeology from the University of Lebanon and a Master’s Degree in History from Central Missouri State University. She also pursued extensive coursework in comparative religion, communications and conflict resolution at Harvard University, the University of Baghdad and Lebanese University. She has sought to increase awareness of pressing global issues such as human trafficking and much of her work has been committed towards building peace in the world. Kader has hosted numerous events, panel discussions, peace conferences, vigils, prayer services and peace marches including International Peace Conferences at the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt. Ms. Kader is a long-time activist for women’s rights and much of her work has been devoted toward the empowerment of women and the elevation of women’s status in society. She has taken an active involvement in women empowerment initiatives this has included hosting interfaith discussions between different religious women, raising awareness on the trafficking of young girls, promoting women’s role in the media and encouraging women to participate in society, politics and decision-making.



**Dr. Bruce Knotts is the Director of the Unitarian Universalist-United Nations Office.** He was born and raised in California. He got his Bachelor's Degree in History from Pepperdine University and his Master's Degree in International Education from the Monterey Institute of International Studies; both in California. Bruce was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia. He 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. Bruce 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, Bruce served as the Regional Refugee Coordinator for West Africa covering 16 African nations from Mauritania to Nigeria, but focusing on the refugees from the conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia and later in Cote d'Ivoire itself. This was the assignment where Bruce had his most sustained contact with the UN system. He evaluated programs and recommended funding for UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and many NGOs (non-governmental organizations) working with refugees in West Africa. Bruce worked closely with several UN Special Representatives and observed UN peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone from 2000-2003. In 2004, Bruce was elected to the Board of GLIFAA (Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies). Bruce 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. He began the UU-UNO's very successful LGBT advocacy program in 2008. This program continues to build important coalitions to end global homophobia. Bruce has been chair of the UN NGO Committee on Human Rights since June 2010 and of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court since April 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. He is also a Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development. In December 2013, Bruce was elected to the Board of the NGO UN Committee on Migration. Bruce married Isaac Humphrie in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in August 2006.



**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).



**Rev. Farida Ali is the Principal Representative of the All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) to the United Nations.** She also serves on the Bureau of the NGO Committee of Religious NGOs to the United Nations, and on the NGO/UN Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Rev. Ali is an ordained Interfaith Minister, with the New Seminary (TNS) and the International Seminary for Interfaith and Inter spiritual Studies (ISIIS). Ms. Ali is the first Pakistani Muslim woman, to attain the distinction of becoming an ordained member of the Global Interfaith Clergy. Ms. Ali serves as an Honorary President with Religions for Peace; the largest global coalition of Religions; continuing a twenty-four year association with Religions for Peace, and the United Nations, mainly in the area of government and constituency relations; providing leadership in strategic planning for UNICEF's work with the Religious sector, NGOs and Intergovernmental Organizations. Rev. Ali is also an experienced educator and former High School Principal. She is a citizen of Pakistan and received her higher education in Pakistan, Canada and the United States.



**Ms. Kamila Jacob, Envoy Coordinator & Youth Representative at the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO).** Ms. Jacob graduated from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA with a B.A. in Sociology and double minored in Spanish and African American Studies. She has been a Youth Representative for the UU-UNO since 2012 and has greatly enjoy watching in the program grow and strengthen. As a youth she always enjoy participating in social justice activities, especially when she gets to stand up and take action!