

NGOCSD - Wednesday, March 19, 2014 Time: 2-4PM
One NY Millennium Plaza Hotel- River View Room - 2PM
General Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Modou Cham, Secretary*

Co-Chairs Ms. Margo LaZaro & Dr. Bella Dinh-Zarr welcomed everyone –

Approval of the Minutes from the February 24th NGOCSD General Meeting –

Approval of our General Meeting Agenda –

The Co-Chairs announced that H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations will be present at today's meeting. They informed us that H.E. Ambassador Lyutha Sultan al-Mughairy, Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations, was called away urgently and sends her regrets. Mr. Amer Hial Al-Hajri, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Oman will speak on behalf of the Ambassador.

The Co-Chairs gave a brief overview of the successful Commission on the Status of Women side event "The Impact of Transportation on Women's Lives" that NGOCSD Co-Sponsored with DPI/NGO Relations, FIA Foundation, the International Council of Women-CIF, the National Council of Negro Woman, and Global Family. The NGOCSD has been Co-Sponsoring and supporting other UN NGO Committee events. The NGOCSD will continue to be supportive of the good works of other NGO Committees, Ambassadors, & UN Departments & Agencies.

Ms. Martha Kabelo, Treasurer's Report – We have over \$6,150 in our Bank Account with Apple Saving Bank and new NGOCSD members are join every month.

Mr. Modou Cham, Report from the Executive Committee Meeting

The Co-Chairs encouraged participation in an Interactive Session: There was a great deal of positive feedback on CSW meetings from a wide variety of organizations. Some expressed an opinion that men were not being considered as part of the solution while others disagreed and felt men were properly included.

The Co-Chairs invited attendees to introduce themselves and give the name of their affiliations.

3-4PM – Discussion: **"Middle Eastern Women: Taking the Lead on Sustainable Development"**

Margo introduced, H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations. Ambassador Al-Thank gave a presentation on the following topics:

- Participation and leadership of women
- Women need an increased footprint in decision making processes
- Empowerment of women achieved through empowerment of family
- Education key driver of sustainable development-especially for women
- Qatar ranked 10th in education

Bella introduced, Mr. Amer Hial Al-Hajri, Deputy Permanent Representative of Oman who spoke on behalf of H.E. Ambassador Lyutha Sultan al-Mughairy. Mr. Al-Hajri gave his presentation on the following topics.

- Oman has taken active steps to further gender equality
- Elimination of all forms of discrimination of humans-CEDAW-Oman signed

- Oct 17-Omani Women's Day

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Questions and Answers:

- Specific examples of women working in sustainability?
 - Qatar
 - Civil society plays a big role
 - Governmental institutions have an obligation
 - Oman
 - Sustainability of production and consumption
- Should Arab countries work regionally or individually
 - Qatar
 - We all have evolved in the last few years but tend not to show that in the global platform-people see all the negatives
- Older persons?
 - Qatar
 - We have done a lot in terms of the rights of older persons
 - Oman
 - We do not let a parent to be left without care-it is a law where kids need to take care of the parents
- What are the best practices to give women clean water and to not have the women carrying water
 - Need to allow them to be more involved in the decision making processes
- What did you find to be the biggest challenge/success in your countries towards sustainable development?
 - Qatar
 - Proud of education
 - But we need to achieve more in political areas-need more women contributing to political life and public life
 - Oman
 - Need to encourage private sectors and innovators how to tackle emissions
- Health services? Reproductive Health? Mental Health? Transportation?
 - Qatar
 - Free healthcare for all
 - Mothers provided with full care
 - Rates of depression are very low
 - Oman
 - Healthcare free
 - Mental health not really a problem.
 - Oman has been a leader in making road safety a priority within the UN and is very involved with the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.
- Immigration in Qatar?
 - We were blessed with being prosperous and share it with others

The Co-Chairs thanked the guest speakers and everyone & the NGOCS D meeting was adjourned.

*with additional contributions by Co-Chairs