



CoNGO 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.

~ NGOCS D Members, Colleagues & Guests ~

Friday, June 27th 2014 ~ Time: 12 Noon - 2:30 PM

Baha'i International, United Nations Office, Suite 120

866 United Nations Plaza (at E. 48th St. & First Ave.)

~ 12 Noon ~ Catered Lunch will be provided ~

~ 12:30-1:00 PM ~ Welcome from the NGOCS D Executive Committee ~
~ Reports & Updates ~

1:00-1:30PM

Update on the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda"
~ Conference Co-Chair, Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Main UN/NGO Representative for CIVICUS ~



In January 2014, Mr. Jeffery Huffines was appointed as Co-Chair of the 65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference with the theme "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda" 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 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 UN; 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 at New York University.

1:30-2:30PM

**Ms. Helen Slottje, 2014 Goldman Environmental Prize Winner for North America
Banning Fracking**

~ The Goldman Prize is the world's largest award honoring grassroots environmentalists ~



Ms. Helen Slottje is the 2014 North American recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize. Using a clause in the state constitution that gives municipalities the right to make local land use decisions, Ms. Slottje provided pro-bono legal assistance, helping towns across New York defend themselves from oil and gas companies by passing local bans on fracking. Much of upstate New York is a rural landscape and home to the headwaters of the Finger Lakes. Directly below the Finger Lakes region is the Marcellus Shale, the largest known deposit of underground shale gas in the U.S. Ms. Slottje saw the results of fracking - once-pristine landscapes were scarred by construction, drilling equipment and waste pits, and families were left to deal with dirty water and air, suffering health problems as a result. With her husband David, Ms. Slottje helped a gas drilling task force in one town draft a local law which led to a petition to ban fracking. Word spread to other towns, and soon, citizens in towns around New York State began to develop similar petitions of their own. While most local citizens and town boards embraced this strategy, the gas industry ridiculed, threatened, and attempted to intimidate Ms. Slottje. More than 170 towns and cities throughout New York have passed local laws prohibiting fracking based on Ms. Slottje's innovative legal framework. Many more, inspired by successes of small towns winning over powerful corporations, are working on bans—and informing grassroots organizations in states like California, Texas and Colorado where communities are also grappling with ways to regulate fracking. Celebrating its 25th anniversary year, the Goldman Prize is awarded annually to environmental heroes from each of the world's six inhabited continental regions. For more information: <http://www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/helen-slottje>