

55TH COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

“Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all”

The United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD),
in partnership with the NGO Committee on Social Development (NGO CsocD),
cordially invites you to attend a high-level panel discussion:

The role of civil society in strengthening social policy frameworks for poverty eradication

Friday, 3 February 2017
1:15 to 2:30 p.m. - Conference Room B
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY



Opening statement:

ELISABETA DAVID
Permanent Mission of Romania
to the United Nations (Invited)

Moderator:

Daniel Perell
Chair, NGO Committee on
Social Development
NGO CsocD

Closing remarks:

Hanifa D. Mezoui
Senior Advisor
Humanitarian Affairs & Civil Society
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
UNAC

Speakers:

Paul Ladd
Director
UN Research Institute for Social Development



Emily Coppel
Communications Manager
BRAC USA



Frank Kanu
Chief Executive Director
Organization for Poverty Alleviation and Development



RSVP HERE

Please note that space for this event is limited. To ensure a seat, please RSVP by 29 January 2017
For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/csocd55>

TOPIC: The role of civil society in strengthening social policy frameworks for poverty eradication

FORMAT: Presentations by non-governmental organisations working at the local/national/regional/international level, followed by a moderated discussion

BACKGROUND

Many civil society organisations work tirelessly to improve the wellbeing of marginalised groups and people living in poverty around the world. At the United Nations, DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development aims to strengthen international cooperation for social development to enable the building of secure, just, free and harmonious societies offering opportunities and higher standards of living for all.

There are approximately four thousand non-governmental organisations accredited to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), many with representatives following closely the work of UNDESA. The NGO Committee's working with the UN and Member States are dedicated to raising awareness of and contributing to discussions on the social pillar of sustainable development. In addition, many of the ECOSOC accredited NGOs have links to other organisations doing innovative work on strengthening social policy frameworks for marginalised groups and poverty eradication in communities around the world. Many of these initiatives are very successful and provide lessons that can be shared and replicated in other parts of the world.

EVENT OUTCOME

The purpose of this side event is to:

1. Identify best practices by civil society on poverty eradication at the local, national, regional and global level that can be replicated in other parts of the world.
2. Demonstrate to Member States the innovative work being done by NGOs to foster better understanding and collaboration between Member States and NGOs.
3. Build communities of practice on specific issues of strengthening social policy frameworks for poverty eradication.
4. Promote UNSDN as the portal where best practices can be shared by NGOs and Member States.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How does civil society effectively work to strengthen existing social policy frameworks?
- How can this lead to poverty eradication for marginalised groups, such as youth, older people, families, persons with a disability and indigenous persons?
- What are some strategies or programs that have been implemented by civil society, and how did social policy frameworks influence or support this?
- How can civil society respond to current concerns that may increase poverty levels of marginalized groups?

Advised by the knowledge that effective development policies depend upon an understanding of the social and political context United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) engages international, integrative research on the social dimensions of current development issues.

Through their rudimentary position within the UN system and self-standing status, UNRISD employs significant mustering power around the world within academia, policy factions and civil society encompassing unique opportunities to engage with and influence current policy debates.

Background

UNRISD was established within the UN system in 1963 to carry out policy-relevant, research on social development that is concerning to the work of the United Nations Secretariat; regional commissions and specialised agencies; and national institutions.

UNRISD research has often challenged common ideas of development and has provided alternative development visions and policy options. As a result their research has shaped major shifts in thinking on crucial development issues including: *social indicators of development, gender, participation, civil society and social movements, identity and conflict, corporate accountability, social policy and the social impacts of globalisation.*

Mission

Through their work UNRISD aim to ensure that social equity, inclusion and justice are central to development thinking, policy and practice. To this end, they:

- focus on social content and impacts of development processes and the role of social institutions, relations and actors in shaping development policies and pathways;
- engage researchers, policy makers and civil society actors from around the world in generating and sharing knowledge, in order to shape policy within and beyond the UN system;
- mobilise and strengthen the research capacity of individuals and institutions in developing countries through collaborative inquiry; and
- provide a space for the exchange of ideas, giving prominence to marginalised viewpoints, often challenging mainstream development thinking and offering alternative policy options.



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Social Policy and Development

Paul Ladd



Director, UNRSID

Paul Ladd has been Director of UNRSID since October 2015. Before taking up this position he had been at UNDP, where he had most recently been Director of the team supporting consultations and technical inputs for the 2030 Development Agenda.

Previously he led UNDP's policy team on 'inclusive globalization' – including trade, development finance, and migration. From 2008-2009, he provided support to the Office of the UN Secretary-General on the financial and economic crisis, and engagement with the G20.

Before moving to New York, Paul was a policy adviser on international development for the UK Treasury, including the period building up to and through the UK's Chair of the G8 and European Union in 2005.

Previously he had been Chief Economist and acting Head of Policy with UK charity Christian Aid, the UK Department for International Development's economic adviser for South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland, and a financial adviser in the Central Bank of Guyana.

Paul received his BSc in Economics and his MSc in Quantitative Development Economics from the University of Warwick. In 2016 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law (LLD), also by the University of Warwick.

Paul is a member of the International Geneva Committee of the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS), and the UNITAR 2030 Advisory Council.

Paul is also an [International Geneva Gender Champion](#). He has committed to ensuring that relevant gender concerns feature in every piece of published UNRSID research and to seek gender balance in the Institute's network of collaborating researchers. UNRSID supports the International Geneva Gender Champion initiative's [Panel Parity Pledge](#).

BRAC USA was established in 2007 as an independent affiliate of BRAC, a development organisation that strives to eradicate the systemic causes of poverty by empowering people, particularly women and girls. BRAC designs solutions that can be implemented in multiple settings with the aim of contributing significantly to the relief of global poverty.

BRAC takes a holistic approach to ending poverty by using a variety of interventions, including microfinance, education, and healthcare to gender justice and empowerment. These interventions focus on investing in communities and individuals to help them take control of their own lives.

By implementing tried and tested strategies originating in Bangladesh, BRAC is able to adapt these strategies to tackle poverty on a global scale. Their programmes are active in 11 countries including Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, and the Philippines.

In 2016 BRAC was ranked the number one NGO in the world by NGO Advisor and has currently reached 138 million people and employs 120 thousand staff members. The Economist described the organisation as “... *by most measures the largest, fastest-growing non-governmental organisation ... in the world—and one of the most business-like.*”

Background:

BRAC was originally established as a small relief effort for refugees displaced after the 1972 Bangladesh Liberation War by Fazle Hasan Abed, a former accountant with a multinational oil company. BRAC focuses on continual monitoring and evaluation of its programmes, a practice that is the key to the organisation’s success in global poverty relief.

Originally the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee and later the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, it is now formally known simply as BRAC.

Vision

A world free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination where everyone has the opportunity to realise their potential.

Mission

BRAC’s mission is to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, disease and social injustice. Their interventions aim to achieve large-scale, positive changes through economic and social programs that enable everyone to realise their potential.

Philosophy

BRAC USA does whatever it takes to create the conditions and opportunities for people, women and girls especially, to take control of their own lives. Tools include microloans for women farmers, micro-savings accounts, and schools for children, safe spaces for adolescent girls, maternal healthcare, legal empowerment, higher education through BRAC University, and more.



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Emily Coppel



Communications Manager, BRAC USA

Emily Coppel is the Communications Manager at BRAC USA, where she oversees outreach, communications and public fundraising to garner support for BRAC in North America.

Emily brings a background in multimedia journalism and non-profit program management of youth education programs, with previous experience in New York and Johannesburg, South Africa. Her work has been featured in the *Mail and Guardian* newspaper, the *Guardian*, KBIA radio (an NPR affiliate) and *NextBillion*. She has contributed to publications in the *Harvard Business Review*.

Emily is passionate about finding engaging ways to tell stories that empower disadvantaged communities.



OPAD Background:

The Organization for Poverty Alleviation & Development-OPAD is an International Non-governmental Organization [INGO] operating in Europe, South America, Asia and Africa with an aim to stimulate community Oriented Poverty Alleviation initiatives that improve Sustainable Development; promote Democratic Governance, Human Rights, and Climate Change mitigation. The organization strives for inclusivity of poor people in Community Engagement Strategies, Public policy formulation and Research.

OPAD Promotes and practices bottom-up approach in all its development interventions which requires accurate information, data and facts on any given challenge that needs result oriented response. OPAD is one of the implementers of Beneficiaries Led Aid [BLA] in Poverty Alleviation Programmes, Climate change Mitigation, relief, conflict resolution and Human Health in our strategic countries of operations.

OPAD is set up under the European, AU and UN Laws governing non-profit corporations. The organization is registered under the European and Swedish law. Its Main Office headquarters is based at Odens Vag 17, 14571 Norsborg, Nybohovbacken 23-25, 11673 Stockholm and Its identification number of Global office is 802445-2297 and its Employer Identification number is SE01802445-2297. OPAD Regional offices are set and managed with indigenous community women, men and youths as staffs and volunteers in order to build synergy among grassroots development partners and Collaborators.

OPAD vision: Equitable Society free from Human Suffering.

OPAD Mission: Promoting inclusivity in all Development Agendas and Programmes.

What we do?

OPAD **reconnect** the poor and marginalised communities with global aspirations of making the world a better place for all. This was the ideology for its formation during Millennium Development Goals [MDGs] and crossing over to the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs]; the organization works with the youth, women and children as the pivot for change that does not only require aid but also capacity and skills for turning the SDGs dreams into reality. Putting Women, Youth and Children in the forefront with the right skills, Capacity and Resource in achieving the dream of a world free from abject poverty and all other social ills SDGs inspire the Human tribe to address. Just as our vision "An Equitable Society free from Human Suffering" whether in Developed, developing or under developed Countries.

OPAD's impact at European level and the rest of the world

In Europe, OPAD offer a wide range of services and share experiences that help the poor and marginalised communities to reintegrate into the society. OPAD targets youths and adults who are mostly immigrants from diverse cultural backgrounds to impart them with skills on self-reliance in Sweden and the rest of the world.

The organization provides children with opportunities to learn other cultures to enhance unity in diversity and share its Best Practices with other like-minded organization in Africa, Asia and South America. OPAD create a gateway for exposure to youth through European Voluntary Services as one of the accredited organization under EU. For more details visit our website www.opad.eu.



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Social Policy and Development

Namn Frank Kanu



Chief Executive Director, OPAD

Major Field: Poverty Alleviation and Disaster management

Frank is a social worker and expert in social and environmental issues, he is active in the non –profit sector since he graduated and has been involved in the successful management and design of many projects at local and international level. He has led policy research studies for the European commission, academic institutions, and NGOs. He has been responsible for series of research projects on Poverty Alleviation and Climate Change. He strongly believed in the non –profit as a socio-cultural and economic driving engine of a more equal and supportive society. He is a heart inspired leader and works with people who want to be loved backed to life and turn their dreams into reality!

He has helped many organizations to get funds and implement their dreams and activities. He loves sport, he is a dreamer and a visionary also. Moreover, he is passionate, smiling and proactive. He has a respectable relationship with local organizations, CBOs and NGOs both locally and internationally. He has established very good network with people, organizations, and municipalities, he also served in different capacity at community local action groups. With over 8 years of training and consulting experience, Frank is a seasoned facilitator and trainer who has turned the hearts of thousands across the nation through individual one-on-one coaching sessions. His approach brings hope and inspiration to all. He has led The Organization for Poverty Alleviation & Development (OPAD) through a period of considerable growth and organizational change and has been at the forefront of developing its holistic model and leadership culture. OPAD is a member of WANGO and UNFCCC.