



CoNGO COMMUNICATION No.18 – May 2016

SDGs Development Agenda 2030

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1. PRESIDENTIAL INTRODUCTION

We are now into the fifth month of the all-important process of working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with all actors well aware that the end timeframe of 2030 is not a distant goal but a challenge today and every day.

I was struck by a pithy phrase coming from the NGO community:
A DIFFERENT WORLD CANNOT BE BUILT BY INDIFFERENT PEOPLE !

How well that captures the spirit of NGOs and Civil Society Organizations. By their ethos NGOs and CSOs are not – and cannot be – indifferent to poverty, to hunger, to ill health, to ignorance, to gender inequality, to water and sanitation deficiencies, to polluting energy supplies, to ignoble working conditions, to global inequalities, to unsafe cities, to unsustainable production and consumption practices, to denial of climate change, to threats to marine life, to soil degradation and desertification, to injustice and corrupt governance, to turning one's back to one's neighbour.

This litany of course paraphrases the 17 SDGs and highlights the vastness of the challenges facing intergovernmental institutions, governments at all levels, civil society, academia, business, and indeed all citizens in all regions. The SDGs embody a pact between developing and developed countries that all will take timely and adequate domestic action to lead to achieving global sustainability. Domestic action needs the involvement and imaginative interventions of citizens, largely acting through NGOs and CSOs. To achieve the SDGs – as well of course as to augment democracy, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law – Governments must foster domestically an open and enabling environment for civil society organizations. This demands the immediate abandonment of the harassment and restrictive legislation introduced recently by too many governments around the world, and which has targeted NGOs, CSOs, human rights lawyers, indigenous community leaders, environmental whistle-blowers, the media, and more. Governments which do not trust their citizens must not be surprised when their citizens in turn do not trust them!

The underlying message of the SDGs is essentially that to achieve “The World We Want” – better still, “The World We Need” – requires unprecedented levels of partnership, cooperation, confidence, sharing of ideas and experience, transparency, accountability and good governance. The time to act is Today.

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

NB: This 18th issue of CoNGO COMMUNICATION has been put together by the most recent intern to be gifted to CoNGO by Kyung Hee University, Seoul, namely Sang Koo Chun. He continues the tradition of competence of his predecessors, and I express our great appreciation to him. CR

2. HABITAT III

CALL FOR HABITAT III SIDE & NETWORKING EVENTS

National, regional, and local governments, as well as representatives from civil society organisations, parliamentarians, research and academia, grassroots organisations, women's groups, children's and youth groups, business and industries, foundations and philanthropies, professionals, trade unions and workers, farmers, indigenous people, media, older persons, and intergovernmental organisations are invited to apply for organizing side and networking events at the Habitat III Conference taking place from 17 to 20 October 2016, in Quito, Ecuador. Deadline for applications is 30 May 2016.

SIDE EVENTS

With duration of one hour each, side events provide a platform to present research and data, projects, initiatives, or networks, signing of agreements, book launches, etc. on specific topics of relevance and interest within housing and sustainable urban development. Side events focusing on implementation and action-oriented initiatives for the New Urban Agenda will be prioritised.

NETWORKING EVENTS

Networking events provide a platform to discuss specific topics of relevance and interest within housing and sustainable urban development. Networking events have a duration of two hours and are an opportunity to build knowledge and strengthen partnerships and networks through sharing ideas and identifying best practices in an effort to advance sustainable urban development in cities and towns around the globe.

General Information on HABITAT III: www.habitat3.org

3. HABITAT III Open-ended Informal Consultative Meetings 25-29 April 2016, UN Headquarters, New York

The HABITAT III Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings brought together over 500 participants from civil society, academia, international organizations and governments. The meeting was organized around daily themes on: regional perspectives; transformative commitments for sustainable urban development; effective implementation; and how to enhance means of implementation (MOI).

Panels took place to examine the recommendations and outputs of the ten HABITAT III Policy Units on: the right to the city and cities for all; socio-cultural urban framework; national urban policies; urban governance, capacity and institutional development; municipal finance and local fiscal systems; urban spatial strategies, land market and segregation; urban economic development strategies; urban ecology and resilience; urban services and technology; and housing policies.

Panels were also organized around the outcomes of seven HABITAT III thematic meetings on: civic engagement; metropolitan areas; intermediate cities; sustainable energy and cities;

financing urban development; public spaces; and informal settlements. One session also captured outcomes of HABITAT III regional meetings, namely Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

HABITAT III Secretary-General Joan Clos underscored the importance of multi-stakeholder inputs to the zero draft of the Habitat III outcome. He also outlined the work of over 200 experts in the ten Policy Units, which illustrate a step forward in the participatory nature of HABITAT III. He underscored that the New Urban Agenda should be complementary to recent landmark UN processes, including the : Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030; Third International Financing for Development Conference; 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development; and Paris Climate Agreement.

IISD Coverage of the Meetings: <http://www.iisd.ca/habitat/3/oeicm/>

4. HABITAT III: Dialogue on the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda

The Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda is online and open to public feedback through the Urban Dialogue

The online dialogue of the zero draft takes place in three phases starting May 9, in parallel with the informal intergovernmental meetings and stakeholder hearings taking place in New York.

Individuals and organizations from around the world are invited to provide feedback on the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda, participating in the process with their contributions and vision.

Information: habitat3media@un.org
<http://us12.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ba031bb6ae1a326b0f3fa4362&id=c57f117385&e=c056c96b6f>

5. UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

What to expect in 2016:

Connecting our Issue Work with the SDGs

This year the UN Global Compact will continue to accelerate our issue work which spans nearly all of the SDGs – on anti-corruption, children’s rights, climate, food, gender equality, human rights, labour, peace, rule of law and water, among others. Through these initiatives, the UN Global Compact will continue to be the entry point for business to take action on global goals. We have also reoriented our website to connect all of our work, resources and action platforms to each of the 17 SDGs.

Strengthening UN-Business Partnerships

None of our world's goals can be achieved alone. More and better partnerships – with integrity and accountability at the centre – will be critical. The UN Global Compact is strengthening our work to help responsible companies establish partnerships across the UN organization. When business and the UN leverage resources and expertise, we can uncover solutions faster and more effectively. Also, the UN Global Compact will work even more closely with many partners in the sustainable business arena on the ongoing challenge to consolidate guidance for business.

Convening World Class Events

Throughout 2016, the UN Global Compact will continue to bring our companies together with leaders from the UN, Government and civil society to catalyse action and partnerships around key priorities. This year's highlights will include the Leaders Summit (22-23 June) and UN Private Sector Forum alongside the UN General Assembly (September).

More information: www.globalcompact.org

6. NOTES ON UPCOMING MEETINGS TOUCHING ON SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference: This conference, organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe, will address: the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the pan-European region, including multilateral environmental agreements, mechanisms, policies and institutions supporting the 2030 Agenda, and review of the pan-European environment.

Dates: 8-10 June 2016.

Venue: Batumi Sheraton Hotel, Batumi, Georgia.

Contact: efe@unece.org

<http://unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-foreurope/efe-conferences/batumi-conference/welcome.html>

Resilient Cities 2016: 7th Annual Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation: Organized by ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) and co-hosted with the City of Bonn, Germany. This Forum will focus on a range of issues related to urban resilience and climate change adaptation.

Dates: 6-8 July 2016.

Venue: Gustav-Stresemann-Institut, Bonn, Germany.

Contact: email: resilient.cities@iclei.org

<http://resilientcities2016.iclei.org>

High Level Political Forum 2016: The fourth HLPF, convening under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), will take place on 11-15 July 2016, followed by a three-day ministerial meeting on 18-20 July 2016. The theme of the 2016 session will be “ensuring that no one is left behind.”

Dates: 11-20 July.

Venue: UN Headquarter, New York

Contact: barthelemy1@un.org

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

2016 International Conference on Sustainable Development: The fourth annual International Conference on Sustainable Development, on the theme “Moving forward: The SDGs in Practice”, will share practical solutions for achieving the SDGs at local and national levels. The conference will focus on four thematic areas: innovation in technology and governance; data; the science-policy-implementation interface; and education and training. The main topics for discussion will be: low carbon urban development; socially inclusive economic growth; agriculture, food security and nutrition; and disaster resiliency and adaptation.

Dates: 21-22 September 2016.

Venue: Lerner Hall, Columbia University, New York

email: info@unsdsn.org

<http://ic-sd.org/>

The 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is expected to address a series of items arising from its Multi-year Programme of Work, including: nutrition; engagement with the SDGs; connecting smallholder farmers to markets; urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition; and monitoring. A thematic event is expected to share experiences and take stock of the use and application of the VGGT (Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible Governance of Land Tenure).

Dates: 17-21 October 2016

Venue: FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Contact: CFS Secretariat cfs@fao.org

<http://www.fao.org/cfs/en/>

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – COP 22 and CMP 12: The 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the UNFCCC and the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 12) will be held in Bab Ighli, Marrakech, Morocco.

Dates: 7-18 November 2016.

Contact: secretariat@unfccc.int

http://unfccc.int/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/meeting/9567.php

7. CALENDAR

NOTICE

1. The CoNGO Calendar is a service to the NGO constituency to enable each individual organization to determine, in good time, its possible or desired involvement in the events mentioned, in accordance with the organization's own statutory or programmatic focus.
2. The conferences and meetings listed in the CoNGO Calendar are not under the convening or invitational or access responsibility of CoNGO. They are listed for the information of readers, and any queries about any event should be addressed solely to the organizer of the event, not to CoNGO.

2016

May 23-24: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: UN World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, Turkey)

<http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/>

May 23-27: UN Environment Programme: Second Meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (Nairobi, Kenya)

<http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/second-meeting-of-the-un-environment-assembly/>

June 6-9: Global Environment Facility (GEF): 50th GEF Council Meeting and Consultation with Civil Society (Washington DC)

https://www.thegef.org/gef/council_meetings

June 14-16: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ninth Session (UN.HQ, New York)

June 22-23: UN Global Compact: Leaders Summit 2016 (UN.HQ, New York)

leaderssummit@unglobalcompact.org

June 27-30: International Council on Social Welfare: Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development (Seoul, Korea)

<http://www.icsw.org>

July 11-20: UN High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs (UN.HQ, New York)

Ensuring that no-one is left behind

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016>

July 17-22: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development-UNCTAD 14 (Nairobi, Kenya)

<http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=808>

July 21-22: UN ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum, 5th Biennial High Level meeting (UN.HQ, New York)

July 31-August 4: Vienna International Model United Nations (VIMUN), UN office at Vienna

Further information at: <http://www.vimun.org>

Registration: <http://afa.at/vimun/vimunregistration.htm>

October 17-20: UN Commission on Human Settlements: HABITAT III (Quito, Ecuador)

<http://unhabitat.org/habitat-iii/>

October 17-21: CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, 8th Session (COP8-UNTOC), UNOV, Vienna

2018

Seventieth Anniversary of CoNGO !

February: CoNGO 26th General Assembly
(precise dates and location to be determined)

UN-Habitat: 9th World Urban Forum (WUF9) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
<http://unhabitat.org/kuala-lumpur-to-host-world-urban-forum-in-2018/>

United Nations High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament

2019

Centenary of the International Labour Organization