

2015 CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION EVALUATION REPORT

53rd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD53)

DRAFT: Version March 06, 2015



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

MARCH 2015
NEW YORK



Executive Summary

The 53rd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD53) took place from 4-13 February 2015 at United Nations Headquarters in New York under the priority theme **“Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world”**.

Evaluating the civil society participation in CSocD53, this report contains three parts. All data applied to this research are collected from CSO Net¹ if were not otherwise identified.

The first part of this report evaluated the civil society participation in CSocD53 based on this year’s registration data and both written and oral reports submitted by civil society organizations (CSOs). This year witnessed a high number of 1269 representatives pre-registered to the Commission and the number of CSOs participating has been achieved from 112 CSOs in 2014 to 130 CSOs, with 289 representatives who attended the session. The number of CSOs participated in CSocD53 grew by 15%. As many as 40 written statements were submitted by CSOs to CSocD53 and 64 CSOs requested to make interventions over the sessions of CSocD53. Due to time limitations, however, only 16 of them were able to make their interventions. It is also worth mentioning that 22 side events were organized during CSocD53.

The second part of the report presented a trend analysis of the civil society’s participation based on seven years’ registration data from CSocD47 in 2009. The trend analysis observed and analysed the trends of registration data of CSOs and representatives, written and oral statements submitted, side events organized, and the changes in regional distribution of participated CSOs and representatives. Based on the analysis made, recommendations will be made to the Bureau of the Commission, UNDESA, as well as the civil society organizations on how to improve the participation in the Commission in the coming years.

The final part of the report summarized possible limitations of the research.

¹ CSO Net access portal: esango.un.org/event



Contents

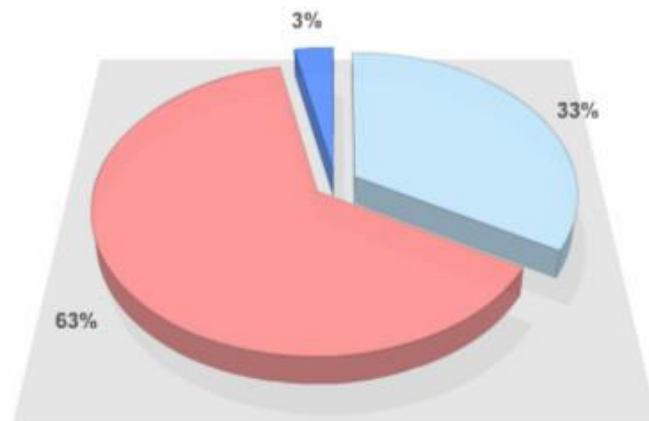
Executive Summary	1
CSocD53 (2015) Registration.....	3
CSocD53 (2015) NGO participation.....	4
CSocD Trend Analysis.....	5
Registration Trend.....	5
Analysis.....	6
Recommendations.....	7
Participation Trend.....	7
Analysis.....	8
Recommendations.....	8
Geographic Distribution Trend.....	8
Analysis.....	9
Recommendations.....	10
Limitations	11
Appendix I: CSocD53 NGO Oral Presentation List and Summaries	12
List of NGOs made the intervention:.....	12
Summaries of oral statements:	12
Appendix II: List of CSocD53 side events	14



CSocD53 (2015) Registration

1. 1269 representatives from 365 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) preregistered to the Commission; 1004 of them were approved; 289 representatives from 130 CSOs participated in the Commission; around 28.8% approved representatives attended the Commission this year².
2. Of all representatives, 118 representatives, or 63%, are female; 62 representatives, or 33%, are male; the gender of 6 representatives is not known.

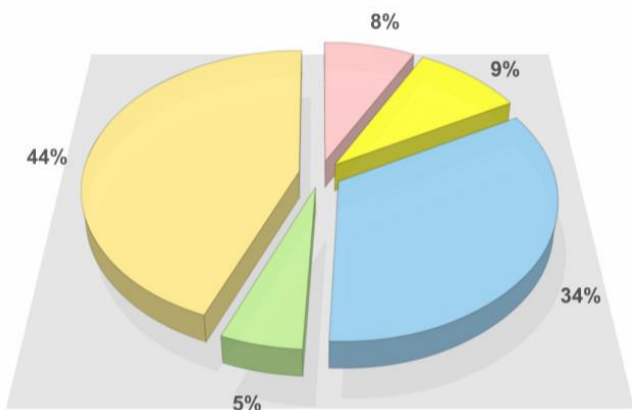
Male (62 reps)
Female (118 reps)
Unknown (6 reps)



Picture 1: Gender Distribution

3. Of the 130 participated CSOs, 10 organizations are from Africa, 12 from Asia, 44 from Europe, 7 from Latin America and Caribbean, and 57 from North America.

Africa (10 organizations)
Asia (12 organizations)
Europe (44 organizations)
Latin America and Caribbean (7 organizations)
North America (57 organizations)

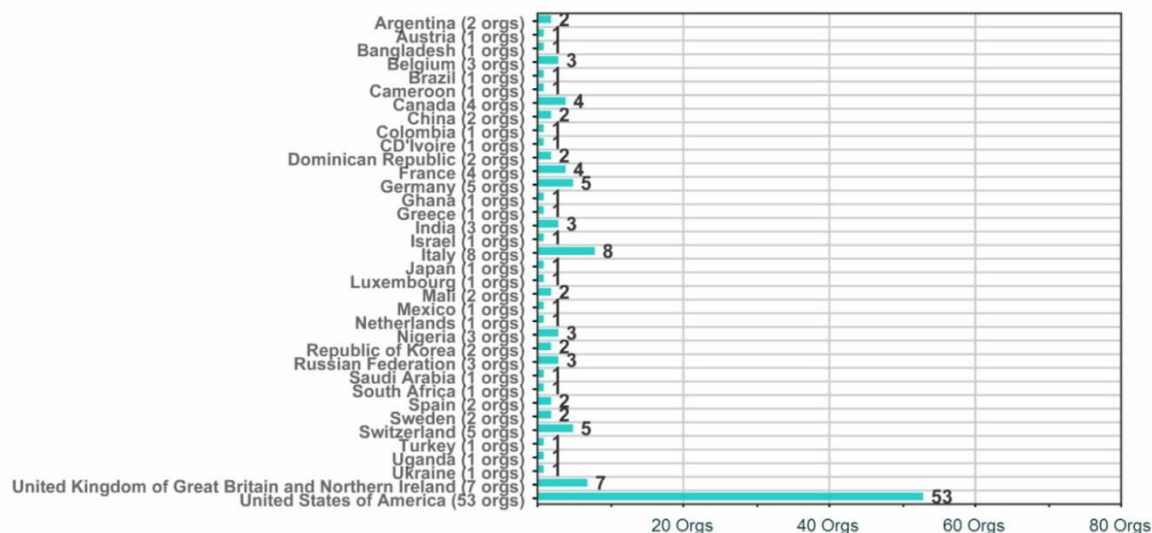


Picture 2: Regional Distribution

² It must be noted that as all participants are ECOSOC accredited, there are sometimes participants who attend using only their grounds pass and do not register their attendance at the registration desk.



4. At national level, 53 out of 130 organizations are from the United States, accounting for 40.8% of all organizations participated.



Picture 3: National Distribution

CSocD53 (2015) NGO participation

- 1) 40 NGO written statements were submitted as Commission documents

*Full statements can be found here:

<http://undesadspd.org/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2015/NGOsStatements.aspx>

- 2) 64 organizations requested to make oral statements, due to time limitations only 16 organizations were able to make their interventions:

*The list of NGOs who made intervention and selected talking points of the oral statements can be found in the Appendix I.

- 3) 22 side events were organised during the commission by NGOs, permanent Missions and UN entities during the Commission. Themes of the side events covered children, youth, older persons, poverty, inequalities, education, health, and inclusive and sustainable development.

*The list of side events can be found in Appendix II.



CSocD Trend Analysis

Registration Trend

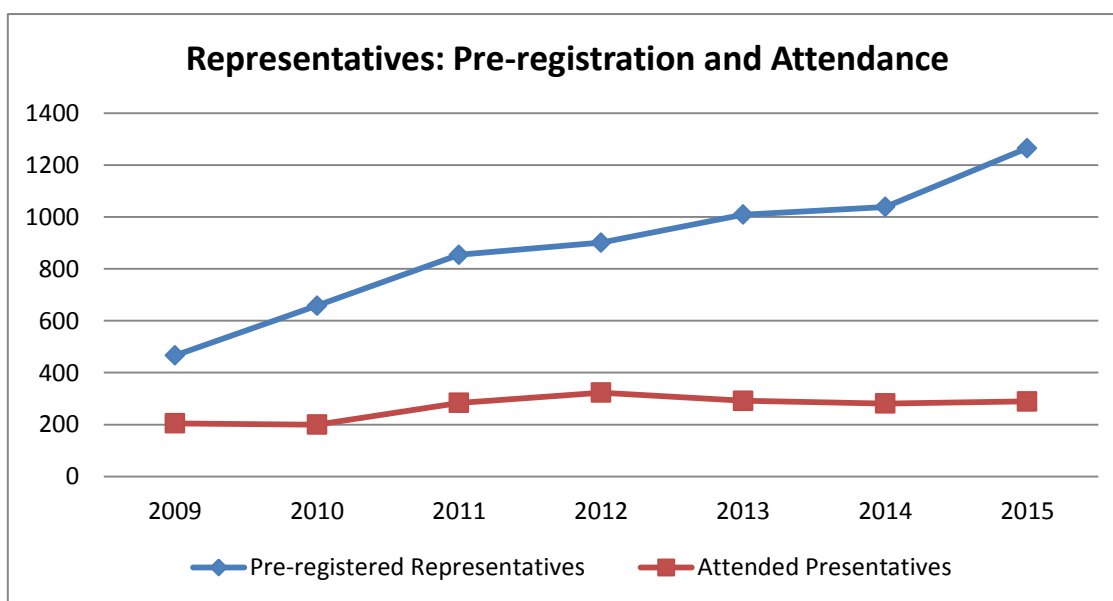
In this part of the analysis, the report collected and monitored seven years' CSO registration data from CSO Net³ since the 47th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD47) in 2009. The data of the 46th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD46) recorded in the database were considered incomplete, therefore they would not be included in the following analysis.

Year	Session	# of Pre-registered Reps	# of Approved Reps	# of Attended Reps	Attendance Rate (Attended/Approved)	# of Pre-registered Organizations	# of Attended Organizations
2015	53rd	1265	1004	289	28.8%	365	130
2014	52nd	1039	1011	281	27.8%	291	112
2013	51st	1009	1001	292	29.2%	281	106
2012	50th	901	901	323	35.8%	269	118
2011	49th	854	787	284	36.1%	211	97
2010	48th	658	600	200	33.3%	199	68
2009	47th	466	431	205	47.6%	118	76
2008*	46th	277	54	300	555.6%	107	107

*This year's data will not be included in the analysis

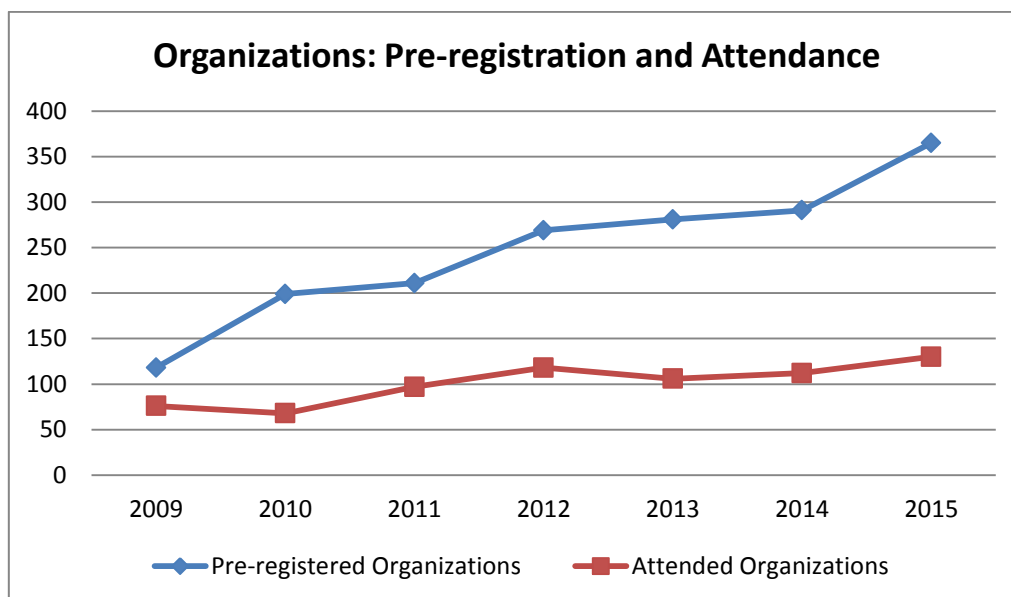
Table 1: Civil Society Registration Trend 2008 – 2015

Based on these data, pre-registration and attendance trends of representatives and CSOs are created:

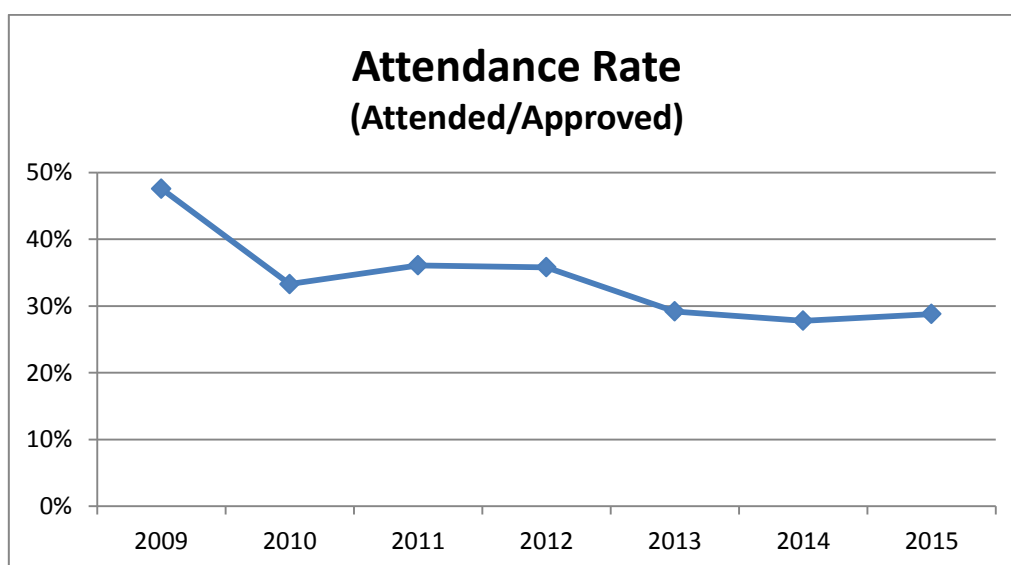


Picture 4: Representatives' Pre-registration and Attendance

³ CSO Net access portal: esango.un.org/event



Picture 5: Organizations' Pre-registration and Attendance



Picture 6: Attendance Rate

Analysis

1. The registration and attendance trends showed that over the past seven years, an increasing number of organizations and representative were attracted to CSocD. It is also worth highlighting that this year, the number of pre-registered representatives grew by 21.8% and that of pre-registered organizations grew by 35.7% comparing to last year, which showed increasing attention to social development from the international society.
2. That said, however, the attendance curve stays stable, showing that a large percentage of representatives and organizations, though were interested in the Commission, did not have a



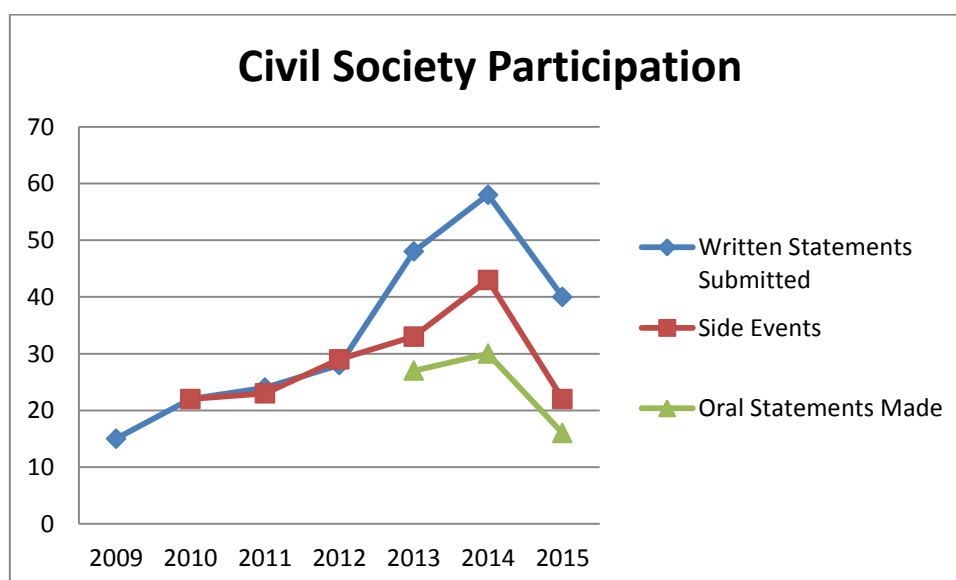
chance to get involved and have their voices heard. The attendance rate curve also illustrated a gently decline trend in attendance, to which the Bureau of CSocD and DESA are encouraged to pay attention to this situation and take actions to bring the interested CSOs to the conference room.

Recommendations

1. The continuing growth of pre-registered representatives and organizations is closely related to the outreach and communication efforts made to promote the Commission. Therefore, it is recommended that the Secretariat of the Commission continuously working on promoting the Commission and raising awareness of social development across the globe.
2. It is highly recommended that the Secretariat of the Commission reached out to those representatives and organizations that pre-registered to the Commission but did not actually attend the Commission. A survey is suggested to investigate the causes that hinder their attendance - geographical distance, financial constrains or other reasons that were not expected. Based on the survey result, the Secretariat and the Bureau of the Commission can better understand the needs of the civil society and thus better facilitate their participation.

Participation Trend

In addition to the registration data, the research also traced the number of written statements submitted to the Commission by CSOs, oral statements made and side events organized during the Commission in the past few years to evaluate the civil society's interest in CSocD.



Picture 7: Civil Society Participation



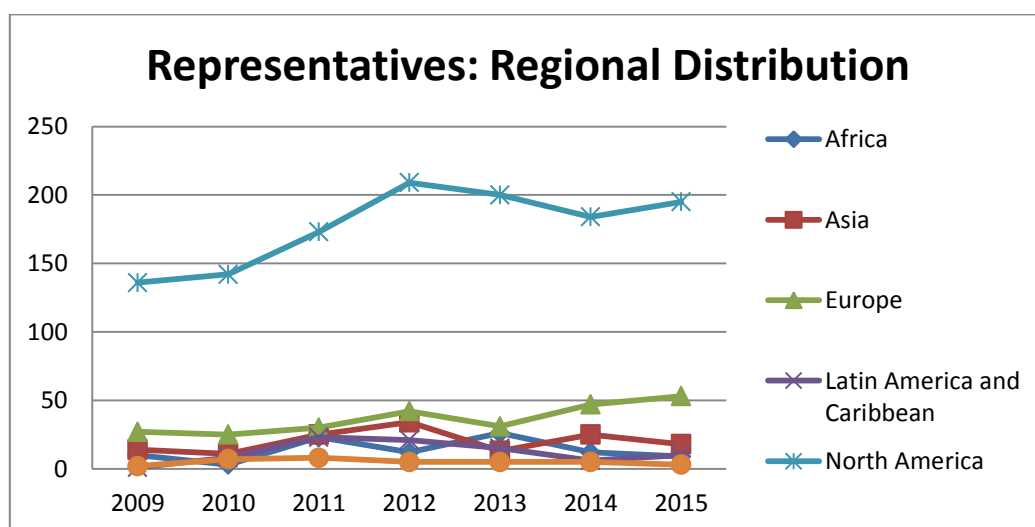
Analysis

1. It is observed that in general, the number of written statements submitted to the Commission by CSOs, oral statements made and side events organized during the Commission go in parallel; together the curves reasonably reflected the civil society's interest in the Commission.
2. The trend chart shows that the civil society's interest and engagement to the Commission gradually increased until 2014; followed by a drop down in 2015.
3. Reviewing the themes and topics of the Commission in the past few years, it is found that the civil society is mostly interested and most highly engaged in CSocD51 (2013) and CSocD52 (2014) when the priority theme is "empowerment of people"; followed by "poverty eradication" in 2011 and 2012, followed by "social integration" in 2009 and 2010. All three curve are seen a drop this year.
4. As the Commission follows a two-year review and policy circle, it is witnessed that the policy year generally has higher civil society engagement than the review year.

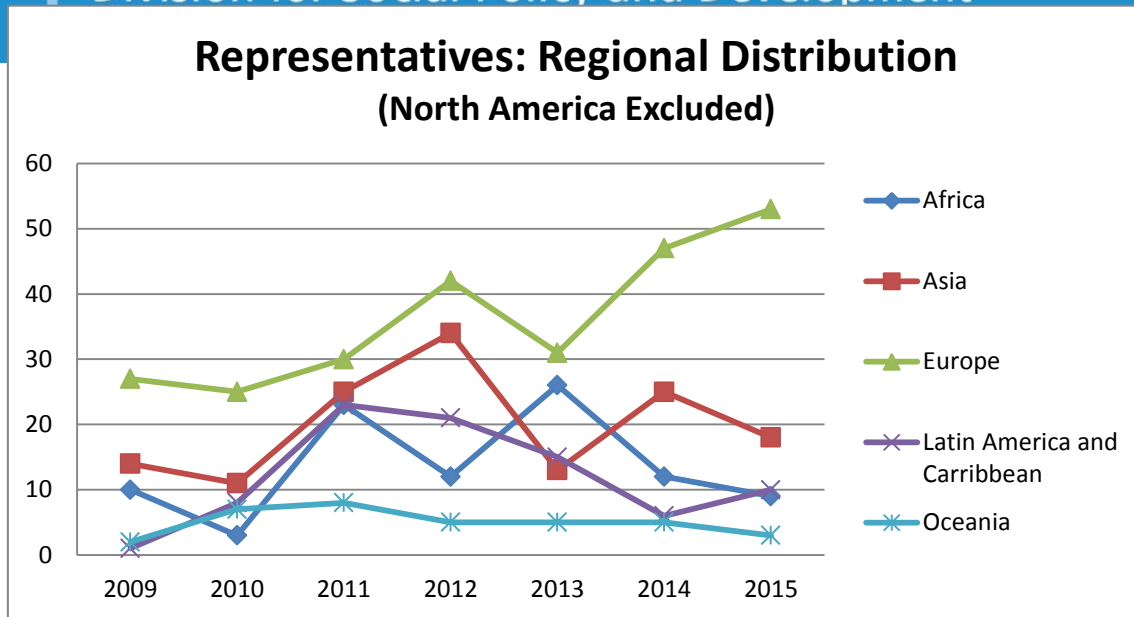
Recommendations

1. In addition to the number of oral statements made by CSOs during the Commission, it is recommended to monitor the number of CSOs requested to make oral presentations. The number of requests made by CSOs mirrors the willingness of CSOs to get involved in the Commission; therefore, it could be a valid indicator to evaluate the civil society's interest and participation.
2. It is recommended to cross compare the list of organizations that held side events in the past years and reach out to those who continuously hosted side events and those who held side events but did not do it this year.
3. As this year saw a significant drop of CSOs' interest, it is recommended to design a generic survey to all CSO participants and collect their feedback on the priority theme, organizations and operations of CSocD53, as well as their recommendations to the future organization of the Commission.

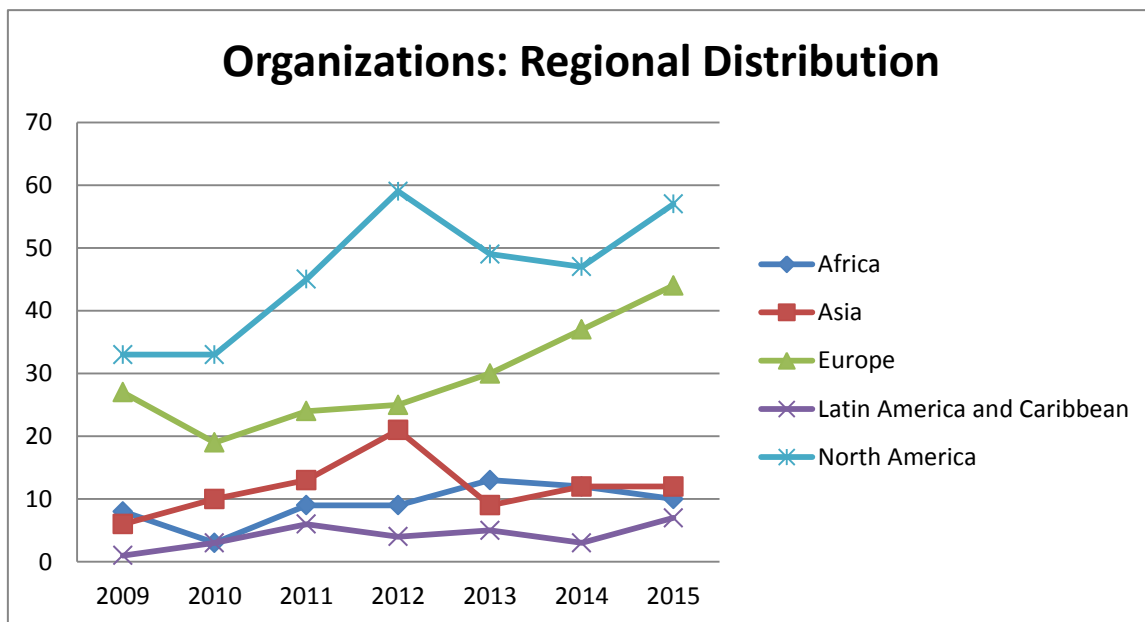
Geographic Distribution Trend



Picture 8: Regional Distribution of Representatives



Picture 9: Regional Distribution of Representatives (North America excluded)



Picture 10: Regional Distribution of Organizations

Analysis

1. Participation of representatives and organizations are significantly high comparing to those of other regions because of geographic convenience and potentially more resources of financial support.
2. Representatives from Europe and Europe-based organizations are continuously growing up in the past years, showing an increasing interest in social development from Europe.



3. The participation of representatives from Asia and Africa fluctuated over the years; Asian representatives show higher interest in policy years when resolutions are made; while African representatives generally have higher attendance in review years.
4. Representatives from Latin America and Caribbean show a decline trend from 2011 to 2014; this year, however, as representatives from all other regions decrease, representatives from Latin America and Caribbean increase. It is also worth noticing that the participation of Latin American and Caribbean based organizations stayed low over the years.
5. The participation of representatives from Oceania stayed low comparing to other regions, but it could be because of the low population in that area.

Recommendations

1. Considering the relatively close geographic locations but comparatively low participation from Latin American and Caribbean organizations, it is hypothesized that language could be a possible obstacle to their participation; therefore, it is recommended to translate CSocD working documents into Spanish to attract more attention from Latin American and Caribbean region.
2. Due to the obvious difference in geographic distribution of participants, it is recommended that future CSocD to have more geographic focus and ensure that progress of social development in all regions were made equally and inclusively.



Limitations

Due to the limitations of time and man power, there exist some limitations with the datasets and the particular research.

First of all, the research was mainly focus on the quantitative data collected. When designing the research framework, the Civil Society and Outreach Unit (CSOU) of DSPD/UNDESAs agreed upon conducting a holistic evaluation supported by both qualitative and quantitative data; however, considering the timeliness of the evaluation and the short of man power, the team was only able to process and analyze the quantitative data received. In the next stage of evaluation, the team will work on breaking down the qualitative data collected through statements, side events' summaries and satisfaction survey.

Secondly, summaries of the oral statements made by CSOs are incomplete as some representatives who made the intervention during CSocD53 submitted their statements to the CSOU team later than expected. Summaries of late submitted oral statements will be updated to the Appendix once they are well edited. CSOs are encouraged to submit their oral statements as soon as possible after they made the intervention next year.

Finally, there is a limitation of the data of the oral statements requested by CSOs. The CSOU team started monitoring the number of oral statement made during the Commission since 2013, thinking it reflects the Commission Board's and member states' interest in listening to the civil society's voice. Nevertheless, the research found the requests made by CSOs to address the Commission were as important in showing the civil society's interest. Therefore, it is highly recommended following evaluation research could focus on that part.



Appendix I: CSocD53 NGO Oral Presentation List and Summaries

List of NGOs made the intervention:

1. International Committee for Peace and Reconciliation
2. International Federation for Family Development
3. Universal Peace Federation
4. HelpAge International
5. Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America
6. Baha'i International Community
7. Triglav Circle
8. International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9. Baltic Sea Forum
10. SustainUS Inc.
11. International Federation of Associations of the Elderly (FIAPA)
12. International Federation on Ageing (IFA)
13. International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics,
14. Atheist Alliance International
15. Global Foundation for Democracy and Development
16. New Future Foundation Inc.

Summaries of oral statements:

International Federation for Family and Development

1. Need for families to be included in some of the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. One of the priorities of the Federation is to provide tools for government to evaluate family relations and support.
3. Family structures have changed and become more complicated in the past two decade; now children are having higher chance to experience separating parents, alone parent, or being a part of the step family; the impact of the changes should be of consideration for government policy making; that is why families have to be cared now than ever before, and they have a huge potential to be self-supported, and promote well-being for all in the society.

Universal Peace Federation

1. "Rethinking" should include the recognition of the importance of family.
2. As we consider the implementation of SDGs: improving human potential should be considered as a core reconciles and families should be considered as a core for social development.
3. Strengthening family is critical to improve social development.



Health Age International

1. Older people made huge contribution to the development of the society.
2. Highlight the importance of data to contribute the work of older people, and advocate for continuous work for data collection. Data are core to ensure that older people voices are heard and rights are protected.
3. Recommendations:
 - 1) Articulate and agree upon on the indicators for the post-2015 framework that reflect the popularity of aging and older people's lives – with data disaggregated by age and gender.
 - 2) Implement national universal social protection system, including social protection floors, based on ILO report/recommendation.
 - 3) Encourage robust views of Club Madrid report on aging in 2017.

Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America

1. Employment links directly to the economic and social status of families; helped with reducing social issues including juvenile delinquency and crimes.
2. Youth people are more likely to be unemployed and disadvantaged in terms of wages.
3. The EU Youth Guarantee - young people under 25 can gain some sort of support such as training and apprentice on individual basis.

Baha'I International Community

1. Structural reform, finance and technology are crucial to social development, but it is people who enforce regulations and who translate plans into actions. People are central to eradicate poverty, promote full employment and foster social integration.
2. 3.8 billion people live in less than 4 dollars a day (SG report); though using dollar figures to measure poverty is imperfect, it shows that people living with limited material source have less opportunities than those live in abundance; as a result, the aggregated talent of several billions of individuals, represent a phenomenal amount of resources for constructive social change, has so far gone large untapped.
3. The Commission should explore: how the contributions of those who have traditionally been treated as largely passive recipients of assistance can be meaningfully integrated into global process of development.
4. Recommendations:
 - 1) Specifically development goals should focus on human resources as robust as on financial and technology resources
 - 2) Building capacities to contribute to social progress should be put at the center of formulating development goals at the international level, planning interventions at the national level, and monitoring progress at all levels
 - 3) Prioritize universal participation and local development efforts, regardless of demographic categories like gender, age, etc.
 - 4) Allow sufficient policy and reporting space for capacity building, adjusted to local circumstances.



Appendix II: List of CSocD53 side events

<Wednesday, 4 FEBRUARY 2015>				
04-Feb-15	11:45 pm-1:00pm	CR.A	Giving Childhood Back to Refugee Children	Curia Generalizia Agostiniana
04-Feb-15	1:15pm-2:30pm	CR.A	Rethinking and strengthening social development and the Human Rights of Older Persons in the contemporary world	International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, (INPEA)
<THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2015>				
05-Feb-15	11:45pm-1:00pm	CR.B	Effective ways for engaging youth in life of society by the example of the program for socially significant initiatives - "Copybook of Friendship"	NGO "Vector of Friendship"
05-Feb-15	11:45pm-1:00pm	CR.A	Social Protection, a strategic tool for poverty reduction and narrowing the inequality gap in Ghana.	PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA
05-Feb-15	1:15pm-2:30pm	CR.8	The role of a Shared Society in achieving socially sustainable and inclusive development	Club de Madrid
05-Feb-15	1:15pm-2:30pm	CR.6	Supporting Active Ageing - experience from the Czech Republic (tbc)	Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic
<FRIDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2015>				
06-Feb-15	1:15pm-2:30pm	CR.A	Reducing inequalities: a key to social development in the contemporary world	UNESCO/MOST and UNRISD and UNDESA DSPD



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Division for Social Policy and Development

06-Feb-15	3:00pm-4:30pm	CRA	RUSSIA: Creating an Inclusive Society	Interregional Union of Life Help for Mentally Handicapped Persons "Sail of Hope"
<MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2015>				
09-Feb-15	1:15pm-2:30pm	CR.7	Building the sustainable development agenda with social protection at its core	Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations
09-Feb-15	1:15pm-2:30pm	CR.11	Technical Cooperation and Evidence-Based Social Policies: Challenges and Opportunities	DSPD
09-Feb-15	1:15pm-2:30pm	CR.C	People First: Community Responses to Human Trafficking	Salesian Missions
09-Feb-15	3:00pm-4:30pm	CR.C	Figuring Transformational Politics: Protection Of Children Of Incarcerated Parents and the Disenfranchised	International Institute for Child Protection
<TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2015>				
10-Feb-15	11:45pm-1:00pm	CR.B	Achieving Social Development Agenda through Traditional Centered Education	Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Center (CISLAC)
10-Feb-15	1:15pm-2:30pm	CR.B	The Impact of Climate Change on Children's Health & Wellbeing	Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
10-Feb-15	1:15pm-2:30pm	CR.C	Using Legal Mechanisms to Strengthen Social Development: A Multi- Issue Conversation	International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (EIFCJ) and International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Division for Social Policy and Development

10-Feb-15	3:00pm-4:30pm	CR.B	Still Dreaming: Realizing Civil Rights as Human Rights	International Humanist and Ethical Union
10-Feb-15	3:00pm-4:30pm	CR.C	A multi-pronged approach to achieving the social development goals; A Overview of some of the dimensions	Barinu Institute for Economic Development
<WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2015>				
11-Feb-15	3:00pm-4:30pm	CR.B	Peaceful and Cohesive Societies for Social Development	Journalists and Writers Foundation
11-Feb-15	1:15pm-2:30pm	CR.7	The role of families in the future we want - Promoting the empowerment of families in the Sustainable Development Goals	The International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)
<THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2015>				
12-Feb-15	3:00pm-4:30pm	CR.B	The Role of Education and Information and Communication Technology (ICTs) in Combating the Ebola crisis and Preventing Future Pandemics : Human, Livestock and Agriculture	Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)
12-Feb-15	3:00pm-4:30pm	CR.C	Strengthening Volunteer Service and Action for Social Development: Launch of the INVEST YOURSELF 2015 Campaign	Commission on Voluntary Service & Action, UN Volunteer
<FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2015>				
13-Feb-15	11.45am-1:00pm	CR.B	"Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world". Move Brain & Save Earth	KINDERENERGY