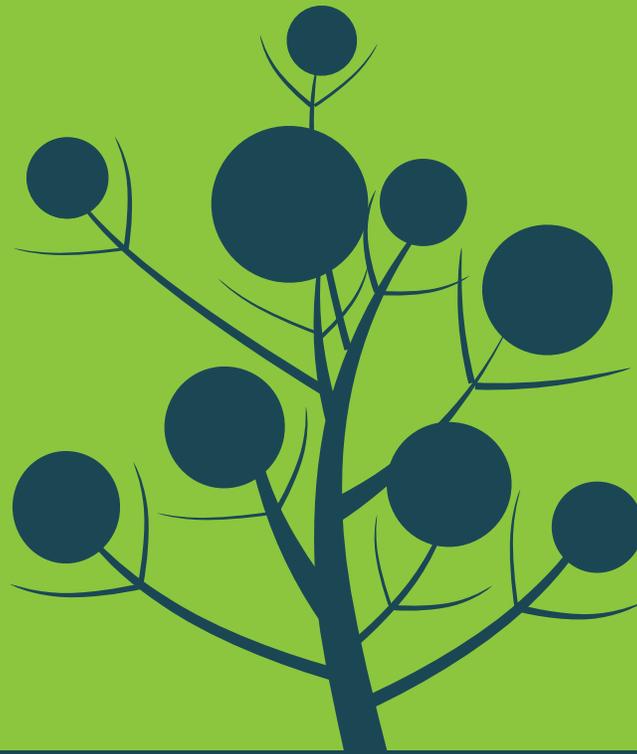


# FINAL REPORT

64th Annual United Nations  
Department of Public Information/  
Non-Governmental Organizations Conference

Bonn, Germany • 3-5 September 2011



## SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES RESPONSIVE CITIZENS



United Nations

Organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information  
in partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee,  
the Government of Germany and UN Volunteers,  
and hosted by the City of Bonn



The  
Federal Government

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The State Government  
of North Rhine-Westphalia



EUROPÄISCHE UNION  
Investition in unsere Zukunft  
Europäischer Fonds  
für regionale Entwicklung

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DPI/NGO Relations would like to express its gratitude to the New York UNESCO Office and the Bonn UNV Headquarters for the use of their conference rooms and video conferencing apparatus. This allowed the New York and German Planning Committee members to meet face-to-face during the planning process, which was an invaluable means to discuss, clarify and solidify crucial Conference details.

The visual identity for the Conference, the Final Report, on-site banners and signage, t-shirts and other collateral designs were created by the Graphic Design Unit, Outreach Division, Department of Public Information.

Photography in the Final Report was by Meike Böschmeyer, as well as Philip Sen of UNV, Maya Manocsoc and Verzhiniya Derelieiva, UNV volunteers, and other participants.

The archived webcast of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference can be accessed at <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/c/64-dpi-ngo-conf.html>





Dear Colleagues,

Organizing a UN Conference for civil society with one theme offers challenges for the Planning Committee, but convening a Conference with two themes that should be addressed in a balanced manner literally poses twice the number of challenges.

However, despite these concerns the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, titled “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens” went off without a hitch and turned out to be a great success.

Held on the eve of two major global events, the International Year of Volunteers+10 summit at the General Assembly in December of this year and the Rio+20 Conference in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, the Conference featured expert NGO and UN speakers, who offered civil society a range of insights, ideas and best practices on how to promote sustainability and volunteerism.

During the weeks of planning, it became clear to everyone that sustainability is really about individual and collective actions. And that’s what civil society does best. As was stated early on in the Connecting the Dots essay, “Connecting the dots between sustainable development and engaging communities is about bringing in those citizens that respond to the challenge: not just the challenge of building a green economy but all the implications that come with it. And it’s NGOs and voluntary organizations that empower responsive citizens to act together and build real, sustainable societies”.

With some 1,300 participants representing 300 NGOs from 85 countries, the Conference venue was abuzz with ceaseless activity and discussions from the Opening to the Closing Ceremony. I was inspired by the attendees’ high degree of interest and involvement in the Opening and Closing ceremonies, Roundtable sessions, Workshops and Exhibits, which highlighted their desire to address the equally important issues of sustainable societies and volunteerism.

It was also a delight to watch the students and youth participants take an active role in the proceedings and pledge to work with other NGOs and the UN in this campaign.

The Conference culminated with the adoption of the Final Declaration that will help all participants in presenting the Conference’s recommendations to their national governments for inclusion in Rio+20 documents. We are pleased to note that the Government of Germany, through its Permanent Mission to the UN, presented the document to the President of the General Assembly to be circulated as an official document.

The energy generated by speakers and panelists, as well as the representatives of civil society, surely served as the needed momentum to reinvigorate the campaign for sustainable societies and responsive citizenship on the roads to both international gatherings.

I would like to thank our partners in this endeavor, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, our UN partners, UN Volunteers and all its staff, as well as the sponsors and supporters for their comprehensive support for the Conference.



Our deepest appreciation and thanks go to our hosts, the Government of Germany, the State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia, and the City of Bonn for the enthusiasm with which they embraced this Conference and the steadfast and generous support which they extended to it. Without their contributions, and devoted commitment, the convening of this event in Germany would have been impossible.

This letter would be incomplete if I didn't express a word of thanks to all of the members of the Conference Planning Committee in New York and Germany - as well as all NGOs - for their selfless dedication and efforts to make this Conference a success.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to Felix Dodds, Chair of the Conference, and Bernward Geier, Coordinator of the NGO Focal Group of Germany, who left no stone unturned as they strove to promote the Conference to regional and global NGOs and the German public.

This Conference was also an inauguration for Maher Nasser, the new Director of the Outreach Division, whose much appreciated and watchful attention to every detail and advice assured the participants and speakers of a fruitful and pleasant experience. We look forward to many years of rewarding cooperation.

On behalf of all my DPI colleagues - whose support was indispensable to the success of this Conference - I look forward to our continuing productive cooperation with civil society as we travel to our next conference destination.



**Maria-Luisa Chávez, Chief**  
NGO Relations, Outreach Division  
Department of Public Information



## Message from the Chair of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference

The 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference on “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens” was unique as it had two focuses under that one theme. It aimed to contribute to the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers with a focus on citizen action and also make a set of high-level policy recommendations to the Rio+20 process.

The main outcome was an NGO Final Declaration drafted and organized by an outstanding group of experts based in New York and Bonn, who came forward with a set of coherent sustainable development goals for Rio+20 that had been circulated in advance of and during the Conference for civil society inputs worldwide. This would not have been possible without the excellent work of the four co-chairs: Nilab Alokuzay, Richard Jordan, Sean Southey and Anne Sturm.

The Conference had 38 NGO workshops covering everything from the Green Economy to Taking Stock – The Role of Farmers, Governments and Society in Tackling the Food and Climate Crises to NGO efforts to promote Sustainable Development through Volunteerism to the Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus. I’d like to thank the NGO Workshop Subcommittee co-chairs – in particular Janet Stovin.

The Conference had many NGO representatives and volunteers helping in Bonn under the capable leadership of the chair of the German NGO Focal Group, Bernward Geier, who made it seem so easy, and Verena Schwarte from the City of Bonn. I would also like to add what a pleasure it was to work with UN Volunteers staffers Donna Keher, Marco van der Ree and Rosmarie Jah who helped manage more than 100 Conference volunteers.

Nothing would have been possible without the support of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee Chair Jeffery Huffines who advised me often as one who had only recently joined the UN DPI/NGO Family. My profound thanks also goes to Maria-Luisa Chávez, my co-chair of the Planning Committee, who with her knowledge of how the Conferences have operated in the past made it a great success. The Conference was made possible by the support of the German Government which demonstrated enormous leadership by hosting the UN DPI/NGO Conference while organizing three other major conferences on Rio+20. I would also like to thank UNEP and UN DESA for their support of the Conference.

We tried a number of new ideas, which I hope will be continued in future UN DPI/NGO Conferences. The first was to have government expert respondents added to the Roundtables. This gave not only a link to the decision makers but also enabled them to hear firsthand what the views of stakeholders were. One of the other innovations was the UN Security-NGO party, which is a tradition in the UNFCCC process, and now, I hope, one that will continue at future UN DPI/NGO Conferences.

The foundation for a green economy and a strong institutional framework for sustainable development is people, as people are consumers, activists, volunteers and responsive citizens. People actively engaged in their communities and societies will ensure action to effectively tackle pressing sustainable development issues.

I ended my speech at the Conference echoing the Secretary-General’s call for a “revolution”. We no longer have 20 years to gradually address the problems in front of us. It was Robert Kennedy talking at another time and about another issue but whose words echo throughout history to what we face now.



“A revolution is coming —  
a revolution which will be peaceful if we are wise enough;  
Compassionate if we care enough; successful if we are fortunate enough —  
But a revolution is coming whether we will it or not.  
We can affect its character; we cannot alter its inevitability.”

This new world can only be built on Sustainable Societies by Responsive Citizens.

**Felix Dodds**

Chair, 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference  
Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future



## In Memoriam

### Wangari Maathai (1940-2011)

The Planning Committee of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens”, would like to express its deep sadness at the passing of Professor Wangari Maathai.

Earlier this year, she was invited to deliver a keynote address at the opening of the Conference but was unable to attend.

In late 2009, the Secretary-General designated Prof. Maathai as a UN Messenger of Peace. In this capacity she continued to dedicate her energies to focusing global attention on the environment and climate change.

In addition to contributing to sustainable development, Professor Maathai was active in the National Council of Women of Kenya in 1976-87 and was its chair in 1981-87. In 1976, while she was serving on the National Council of Women, Professor Maathai conceived the idea of community-based tree planting. She developed this project into a broad-based grassroots organization whose main focus is poverty reduction and environmental conservation through tree planting. Through this organization, which became known as the Green Belt Movement, Professor Maathai assisted women in planting more than 40 million trees on community lands including farms, schools and church compounds.

In 1986 the Green Belt Movement (GBM) established a Pan African Green Belt Network that has exposed many leaders of other African countries to its unique approach.

Professor Maathai was internationally recognized for her persistent struggle for democracy, human rights and environmental conservation. She addressed the UN on several occasions and spoke on behalf of women at special sessions of the General Assembly during the five-year review of the Earth Summit. She served on the Commission for Global Governance and the Commission on the Future.

Professor Maathai and the Green Belt Movement received numerous awards, most notably the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. In April 2006, the President of France, Jacques Chirac, honoured Professor Maathai with France’s highest honour, Legion d’Honneur.

The Conference Planning Committee sends its sincere condolences to Prof. Maathai’s family, friends and colleagues.



## Conference Overview: NGOs Urge Civic Engagement En Route to Rio+20

### **Ninth Symphony: “Ode to Joy”**

*Joy, beautiful spark of the gods,  
daughter from Elysium,  
we, drunk with fire, step into  
your holy shrine, Heavenly One.  
Your magic binds together again  
that which custom has rigidly divided:  
all human beings become brothers  
wherever your gentle wing is.  
Be embraced, millions!  
This kiss is for the whole world!*

*Music by Ludwig van Beethoven  
Lyrics by Friedrich von Schiller*

The 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, titled “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens”, served as a unique opportunity for civil society to make noteworthy contributions to encouraging volunteerism and sustainability around the world.

For three days, NGOs, led by scores of expert speakers, honed their understanding of the symbiotic relationship between sustainability and responsive citizenship and raised their awareness of the importance of connecting the dots between both issues. It was determined that active and engaged citizen-volunteers are the backbone of a successful sustainability campaign.

The wide-ranging discussions culminated in the creation and adoption of the 17-page Final Declaration, which will help all participants in presenting the Conference’s recommendations to their national governments for inclusion in Rio+20 documents.



The plenary hall of the Maritim Hotel was filled with NGOs from around the world for the Opening Ceremony of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference.



Taking their cue from contemporary society, speakers and attendees categorically placed a great deal of reliance on social networking and new technologies in promoting sustainable societies and civic responsiveness.

Held at the Maritim Hotel, in Bonn, Germany, 3-5 September 2011, the Conference attracted about 1,300 participants, from 300 NGOs and 85 countries, including representatives of academia, media, the UN system and Member States. It was organized by DPI/NGO Relations, the Federal Government of Germany, UN Volunteers and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, and was hosted by the City of Bonn.

The Conference featured high-level UN, Host Country and NGO experts in sustainability and volunteerism who addressed the Opening and Closing ceremonies, four Roundtables, some 38 NGO-organized workshops, and 26 NGO exhibits on how NGOs can participate in building sustainable societies and responsive citizenship.

This was the fourth time that the UN DPI/NGO Conference was held outside United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The first one was the 61st Annual Conference, which was dedicated to “Reaffirming Human Rights for All”, and was appropriately held in Paris, France, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted six decades earlier. The second, titled “For Peace and Development: Disarm Now”, was held in Mexico City. The third, titled “Advance Global Health: Achieve the MDGs”, was held in Melbourne, Australia, in 2010.

The Secretary-General, **Ban Ki-moon**, in his opening video address, referred to both themes of the Conference when he said: “Sustainable societies need responsive citizens. This year, we have seen how individuals can make a difference by uniting through social networks and working for change. We need to harness the same energy in the service of the planet that sustains us”.

He reminded the participants that they have an important role to play in this endeavour.

“We need your networks and your best ideas. I count on you to commit, encourage and volunteer, and I thank you for coming together to do just that”, said the Secretary-General.

**Joseph Deiss**, President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly, in his welcome video message, said the title of the Conference has great significance for today’s and future generations.

“Environmental degradation and climate change cannot be reversed overnight. Sustainable development is a challenging process. Without the involvement of the world citizen, without the continued commitment of the civil society, there is very little the international community can achieve on this front,” Mr. Deiss said. “The spirit of this Conference will hopefully provide a new impetus to governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in both developed and developing countries so that the environmental protection and conservation of resources will bring economic benefits no matter what the level of development”.

In his remarks during the Opening Ceremony, **Kiyo Akasaka**, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, who served as moderator of the plenary ses-

“We need your networks and your best ideas. I count on you to commit, encourage and volunteer”. – Ban Ki-moon





NGOs unanimously adopt the Final Declaration of the Conference that will guide their work on the road to IYV+10 and Rio+20 conferences.

sions, said today's challenges – food, energy, finance, water, climate – were “many, and complex”. Furthermore, the issues of sustainable development and civic engagement are “real and urgent”, he said.

“We must rise to this challenge, but it will be difficult,” Mr. Akasaka said. “Climate change negotiations are at a crucial stage. Greenhouse gas emissions are increasing and reached a record high in 2010. While we see some progress, on forests and on financing, too many words and promises were still broken or failed to turn into action.”

He indicated that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, will be an enormous opportunity for young and older generations to chart a course toward a more sustainable future. It will be an opportunity to put sustainable development at the centre of international policymaking and at the centre of civic engagement worldwide. The Rio+20 Conference will be a crucial step towards meeting that goal, he noted.

“It is the people gathered in this room, NGOs and volunteers, who can inform, educate, and change minds, attitudes and practices,” he said, assuring the NGO community that in all that they do, they would have a very strong partner in the United Nations.

Mr. Akasaka made a specific appeal for aid to the Horn of Africa – Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia – saying that the scale of suffering was a result of climate, conflict and governance.

“It is the people gathered in this room, NGOs and volunteers, who can inform, educate, and change minds, attitudes and practices”. – Kiyo Akasaka



He pointed out, “Today, more than 12.4 million people are in desperate need. More than 300,000 children across the region are severely malnourished and at imminent risk of dying. In Somalia alone, 1.4 million children are affected by this crisis.

“The future of an entire generation hangs in the balance. The UN humanitarian appeal for the hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa is still less than 60 percent funded. The UN still needs \$1 billion dollars more”, Mr. Akasaka said.

## Mayoral Greeting

Mayor **Jürgen Nimptsch**, referring to Bonn’s favorite son, Ludwig van Beethoven, welcomed civil society to Bonn by reciting the “Ode to Joy” lyrics written for the composer’s Ninth Symphony, which inspired the European anthem.

“May they also inspire this Conference, as they express what is at the very heart of sustainable development. You have come together to discuss how sustainable societies can benefit from the responses of civil societies. Encourage, commit, volunteer – this is the inspiring claim on the Conference website. Let me say that I deeply believe that all of you have, for long, committed to our common cause. And most of you are among those who volunteer for their societies in one way or another. Your brilliant examples encourage others – and I would like to encourage you to continue with these tireless efforts”, Mayor Nimptsch said.

With Bonn being an official UN City, where 18 UN organizations, programmes and offices are located, the Conference attendees were welcomed to this corner of Germany by **Flavia Pansieri** in her position as Chair of the Consultative Forum of the Heads of Agencies in Germany.

“Achieving sustainable development is not just the job of governments and the United Nations. Sustainable societies need responsive citizens and responsive civil society organizations – people who rise to the challenge, who take action of their own free will, and work together towards a better and brighter future for everyone around them”, Ms. Pansieri said.

“Sustainable development is an enormous task that needs an enormous response, and only through engaging every citizen of the world it is to be met. Therefore, we need to connect the dots between sustainable development and civic engagement. We have to find new ways to strengthen and encourage the planet’s most incredible resource – its people – into a force for transformation of their own communities”.

**Achim Steiner**, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, in his opening remarks emphatically stated: “Unequivocally and unreservedly the process that is leading to Rio+20 needs not only the voice but the passion, experience, vision, creativity and determination of civil society. Without your involvement and without the broad alliance represented in this room, bringing its full potential and focus, this process is unlikely to succeed in terms of delivering a defining, decisive outcome”.

Mr. Steiner also said: “The world is looking for leadership and the world is looking for ambition and a resolution to the divisions of the modern world. The public is not just looking to their elected leaders for clear, cooperative and conclusive ways forward, they are looking

“Sustainable societies need responsive citizens and responsive civil society organizations”. – Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch





Vandana Shiva, second left, makes a point during the Q-A Session. Seen with her are, from left, Felix Dodds, Kiyoko Akasaka and Achim Steiner.

to institutions such as the UN and civil society organizations for clarity and a clear voice on the issues at hand”.

**Vandana Shiva**, founder of Navdanya International, an organization centered on cultural and biological diversity, stated during the Opening Ceremony that NGO delegates should recognize the interconnectivity of the environment and the economy. Once this is done and producers take into account agro-ecology, Ms. Shiva said, the world community could double the amount of food grown in three years.

It must be recognized that human rights, such as the right to food, flowed from the rights of the earth, she said, adding that indigenous peoples had realised the importance of recognising the rights of Mother Earth and in that way had gained more from the environment than making a commodity of everything.

Volunteerism means freedom, Ms. Shiva said, and slaves do not volunteer; only free people volunteer. However, while volunteerism was good for society, voluntary guidelines for polluters did not work; they needed to be regulated. She pointed out that deregulation and voluntary action must be addressed, and concluded by saying that it was NGO movement’s voluntary spirit that would drive the needed action forward.

The participants and residents of Bonn were also treated to several Conference-related public events, such as a Town Hall meeting, a commemorative NGO tree planting ceremony as well as displays of German art and culture.

Turning to the joint role of volunteerism and sustainability in society, **Grace Aguilin-Dalisay**, Chairperson, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Bahaginan, Philippines, noted in her keynote address that “in their lifetime, children become adults who are committed to achieving their full potential, with the best interests of future generations in mind. In a real sense, healthy psychological development is anchored on the principle of sustainability:



living a balanced life and enjoying the earth's resources in a way that passes on to those who come after us, the same privilege".

However, Ms. Aguilin-Dalisay explained, children are disadvantaged when their physiological, socio-psychological and economic needs are not met by their parents, communities, business corporations, schools, churches and governments.

Consequently, she said, "The collective and inter-generational capacity to create societies of active citizens is further threatened by the absence, or soul-less implementation, of policies and laws aimed at the reduction of poverty, disadvantage and marginalization".

Ms. Aguilin-Dalisay declared that volunteers have been the "catalysts for change both at the individual level - running waste segregation management programs for parents, providing meditation and spiritual exercises to flood survivors - and at a macro level - working with communities to lobby for the implementation of government policies against illegal logging or with government education officials in curriculum revision for a culturally appropriate education for sustainable development".

She continued: "Armed with their skills and unencumbered by the restrictions of the paid work place, volunteers are able to bridge turfs and address the multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral challenges brought about by poverty".

**Felix Dodds**, Chair of the Conference and Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum, pointed out that this global event for NGOs has had "a huge response from civil society and this will enable us to prepare for input to the IYV+10 General Assembly debate, providing another opportunity to promote and recognize volunteers' amazing contributions to sustainable development all round the world. It will also input to Rio+20 processes".

Mr. Dodds noted that the topics for discussion are not new and have been talked about for decades, many of them since the Stockholm environmental conference in 1972, where the seminal report from the Club of Rome broached the issue of "Limits to Growth".

One of the mainstays of the Conference is the DPI Workshop, led by DPI/NGO Chief Maria-Luisa Chávez (center). Seen with her from left are Marco van der Ree (UNV), Daniele Violetti (UNFCCC), Marienette Abadilla (DPI/NGO) and Maher Nasser (DPI Outreach Division).





Displaying solidarity with Conference volunteers, from left, Justin Davis Smith, Eden Mamut, Christiane Bögemann-Hagedorn, Kiyoko Akasaka, Felix Dodds, Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch, Flavia Pansieri and Maria-Luisa Chávez.

“We know from the UNEP GEO4 Report, the IPCC, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and from what I have been hearing today that the problems we are facing have not reduced but have become more acute, not as a result of the lack of proclaimed government commitments to action, but to their dismal performance in implementing their agreements”, he said. “Indeed, if governments had implemented the many conventions, treaties and declarations they have negotiated from Stockholm to Rio to Kyoto to Johannesburg, we would be well along the road to sustainability”.

## Closing Ceremony

Ultimately, the Final Declaration, unanimously adopted on the last day, is expected to help all participants in presenting the Conference’s recommendations to their national governments for inclusion in Rio+20 documents. The German Government assured the participants that it will indeed present this document to the President of the U.N. General Assembly. According to participants’ feedback, it has been evident that the Final Declaration is already being reviewed by a host of relevant conference organizers.

During the Closing Ceremony, Mr. Dodds presented the document to the Mayor of Bonn so he could deliver it to the Federal Government of Germany for presentation to the President of the General Assembly. Afterwards, he also presented the Final Declaration to Mr. Akasaka for transmittal to the Secretary-General.

In his concluding remarks, the Under-Secretary-General Akasaka echoed the delegates’ positive experiences, saying that everyone was enriched by the debates, discussions and exchanges, which imbued in everyone a deeper commitment to sustainable development.

“A key challenge is to look at how, as NGOs, we can better embrace new technologies”. – Justin Davis Smith



“Building more sustainable societies through our individual and collective volunteer efforts is a goal that guides us going forward”, Mr. Akasaka said. “We have enjoyed the enthusiasm and passion that each one of you has brought to this forum. In particular, we congratulate all of the young people here for your active participation. Your voices have been heard and, I am sure, your views are reflected in the final document”.

Mr. Akasaka told the participants that the Conference found a wide audience beyond the Maritim Hotel, with people watching webcasts, tweeting and posting comments to Facebook.

“This is an indication of the passion and commitment of civil society in wanting sustainable societies and to volunteering. Now, we count on you to spread the word throughout your communities, across your regions, and beyond. You are the agents of hope and timely action. You have the influence to change the attitudes and actions of policy makers and you must fully utilize it”, he said.

“Please mobilize your forces to encourage your countries’ heads of state or government to attend the Rio +20 Conference. At this point, to have an impact on the Rio+20 preparatory process and on the General Assembly’s discussion of volunteerism in December, your Declaration and its recommendations need to be channeled through your governments into the inter-governmental process”.

According to Mr. Akasaka, the UN mobilized all of its available resources – press releases, radio stories, News Centre articles, webcasting, interviews, blogs and press conferences as well as social media – such as Facebook and Twitter – to bring the news of this Conference to the global NGO community.

- More than 600 tweets were sent, reaching more than 36,000 followers with in excess of 150,000 comments.
- The Conference attracted some 463 followers to its Facebook page.
- The live webcast of the Conference was viewed by 458 people while the on-demand webcast was viewed by 4,159 individuals by the end of September.

**Eden Mamut** of the Black Sea Universities Network said in his remarks that on the one hand there are visible environmental calamities and on the other there are experts who can correct those misfortunes but no one is consulting those specialists.

Mr. Mamut noted that scientists and other experts accumulated throughout the centuries huge stockpiles of knowledge about how and why the environment is being destroyed. This amassed knowledge allowed experts to define the strategic mix for implementing sustainable development concepts based on three main interrelated pillars:

- Continuing to improve efficiency in the use of resources;
- Re-engineering industrial, economic and social processes so they are consistent with the natural cycles;
- Educating the people so they have a fundamentally new understanding of welfare that shifts from opulence towards sufficiency.

“If we want a better world for us and future generations, we have to act with wisdom and intelligence”. – Eden Mamut



Mr. Mamut said that as an educator, he favors emphasising the role of education and science in defining a new paradigm for bridging the efforts of the authorities, business community, scientists, educators and the NGOs for assuring the sustainability of society at each scale.

“I do consider that the recent UN Academic Impact initiative could offer a possible new pathway for attracting the universities closer to civil society by deploying large resources of knowledge and innovation. This is a global initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in actively supporting 10 universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, literacy, sustainability and conflict resolution.

“If we want a better world for us and future generations, we have to act with wisdom and intelligence by valuing the tremendous resources of knowledge and innovation from the universities”, Mr. Mamut said.

**Justin Davis Smith**, chief executive of Volunteering England, alluding to the widespread riots in Great Britain earlier this year, said just as social media mobilized rioters so too did social media organize the neighborhoods to clean the mess the next day.

“A key challenge is to look at how, as NGOs, we can better embrace new technologies to ensure that we are at the centre of strong online as well as physical communities. We are at a crunch point where organizations risk being left behind as our citizens move onto new ways of communicating and organizing” Mr. Smith said.

He went on to say that NGOs must face the challenge of sustaining the strength of the voluntary spirit in societies and must ask themselves if they are doing the right things.

In her remarks during the Closing Ceremony, **Christiane Bögemann-Hagedorn**, Deputy Director-General for Civil Society, Economic Policy and Private Sector, of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), assured civil society that their efforts in composing a noteworthy Declaration on sustainability and volunteerism would be presented to the President of the General Assembly.

“That is why the motto of the Conference is also a link to the upcoming Rio+20 Conference, at which the active involvement of civil society will be crucial if the meeting is to produce ambitious and viable results. We will thus be glad to take up the concrete ideas raised at this Conference and will hand your Final Declaration, via the German Permanent Mission to the UN, to the President of the UN General Assembly this fall”, Ms. Bögemann-Hagedorn assured.

She further encouraged ongoing NGO engagement in sustainability, saying “Active civil society involvement in the context of the conference will be crucial if the meeting is to achieve ambitious outcomes. A transformation to a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication requires the involvement of all players – citizens, governments and the private sector. You, the participants in the present meeting, are helping to attain these goals through your ideas and suggestions. We want to encourage you to remain active in the preparation phase for Rio+20”.

The 17-page **Final Declaration** notes that the Conference aims to inform the preparatory process towards the Rio+20 Conference that will be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, and contribute to the two volunteer-focused sessions of the UN General Assembly scheduled to take place in December 2011 to mark the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10).



Encouraging civic engagement for Rio+20, the Declaration urges “all stakeholders to become involved in Rio+20 and to make their own commitments to sustainable development”. It also calls on governments to come to Rio+20 “with concrete commitments to take individual and collective actions towards sustainable development” and “produce a politically-binding outcome document that recommits governments to achieve sustainable development”.

Throughout the Final Declaration, the Conference participants underscored the dominant role of volunteerism in achieving sustainable development by fostering inclusion of all segments of society, including women, children, young people, older persons, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants and vulnerable parts of society.

The document also calls upon the UN General Assembly to proclaim 21 December each year as International Low-Carbon Lifestyle Day.

Ambassador Peter Wittig, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, sent the Final Declaration with a cover note to Nasser Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly, in mid-October, requesting that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

## Calls to Action

Since taking the Conference on the road, the Call to Action during the Closing Ceremony has served as a public appeal to civil society to move the current discussion to a higher level. At the 64th UN DPI/NGO Conference, due to the dual tracks, **Flavia Pansieri**, Executive Coordinator of UNV, and **Elizabeth Thompson**, Executive Coordinator of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, delivered these remarks.

Felix Dodds, Conference Chair, moderates an NGO meeting on drafting the Final Declaration.



After first determining that almost all of the attendees were in fact volunteers, Ms. Pansieri said: “So all of us are connected by our interests in sustainable development, the environment, to reducing poverty, to volunteers, to responsive citizens, to people. And volunteers are people who stand up – like you just did, and like you do every day – who stand up, step forward and make themselves counted. So volunteering is part of the work of most of our organizations. You can be professionals and volunteer at the same time. And we are all here because we think we need to do something about the state of the world”.

Ms. Pansieri drew an example of volunteerism from the firefighters, who on 11 September 2001, did not run away from the burning Twin Towers in New York City but ran into the structures to make a difference – many of them losing their lives in the service of people they didn’t even know. “It’s a mindset, a way of life, and one we all share”, she said.



Volunteers plant a commemorative NGO tree signifying sustainable development and volunteerism on the grounds of the Maritim Hotel.

Ms. Pansieri said volunteers are the means to move the sustainable development agenda forward.

“Where do you see volunteers? Take an African village with a water pump, that pump is being managed by a local volunteer committee, I am sure the fair trade towns were started by and are still inspired by volunteers. And what about the energy policy change and closing down of nuclear power plants in Germany, if it wasn’t for the tens of thousands of people going onto the streets, activists, volunteering their time for a common cause. People freely giving their time for the benefit of others from commitment to create change. As Vandana Shiva said, ‘Volunteerism is freedom’. This is freedom when we commit, encourage and volunteer for sustainable societies”.

Ms. Thompson said as the global community approaches the Rio+20 Conference, civil society “must persuade governments and communities of the necessity of re-engaging and recommitting to integrating sustainable development planning into the core of national policy, our way of life, assessing the gaps in the development agenda, and finding the finances and technology to deliver answers to the issues - old, new, emerging and re-emerging which prevent us from attaining the sustainable development of the world’s people without reckless consumption of the planet’s natural resources”.

“Volunteers are people who stand up, step forward and make themselves counted. So volunteering is part of the work of most of our organizations”. – Flavia Pansieri



Ms. Thompson urged NGOs to use their potential for global advocacy to help make Rio+20 successful by educating citizens, helping to shape policy, influencing values and behaviour, catalyzing change and maximising this global opportunity to transition to a green economy, eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development.

“Sustainable development is a strategic approach to economic growth in an era of scarce resources, fast-growing populations, and fast-approaching tipping points in our climate and eco-systems. Sustainable development is good for people, good for business, and good for the planet. That is why the Rio+20 Conference next June is so important”, she said.

In his closing remarks, which also marked his stepping down as Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, **Jeffery Huffines**, ex officio member of the Planning Committee, recalled the involvement of NGOs in convening the Conference.

“Every year it is civil society that decides upon the Conference theme and chooses the Conference Chair through a nomination process conducted by the NGO/DPI Executive Committee. It is NGO representatives who volunteer their time and energy to develop the Conference programme and modalities in partnership with UN DPI in New York and the NGO Focal Group in the Host Country. It is NGOs who write and ratify the Conference Declaration and Plan of Action”, Mr. Huffines said.

He said the Conference, which is organized for NGOs by NGOs in partnership with DPI, offers an “unparalleled opportunity for civil society to consider UN programmes and initiatives in unique and novel ways”.

“Since taking the Conference on the road, this premier UN civil society event has served to extend and deepen NGO regional partnerships with the United Nations, while delivering concrete Conference outcomes designed exclusively by the NGO community to provide significant civil society inputs into ongoing UN deliberations and plans of action targeted by the Conference planners,” he said

Mr. Huffines called the Final Declaration an “outstanding achievement” and an “invaluable advocacy tool” for NGOs in enhancing Rio+20 and volunteerism.

Assessing the achievements of the Conference, Mr. Dodds said that they and the Final Declaration reached in just three days a level that he did not expect.

“We need every country to take as active a role as Germany is doing in the preparation for Rio+20. I ask you to go back and engage your governments in a dialogue on what can be achieved”, he said.

Mr. Dodds suggested that innovations introduced at the Conference should be considered for future UN DPI/NGO events:

- Including expert respondents in the Roundtables;
- Organizing capacity building workshops;
- Scheduling youth sessions;

“Sustainable development is good for people, good for business, and good for the planet”. – Elizabeth Thompson



- Preparing regional meetings;
- Designating a UN Security/NGO Party

In addition to the Opening and Closing ceremonies, the Conference featured four Roundtables, 38 NGO Workshops, 26 NGO exhibits and a host of public/side events and evening sessions that kept the participants busy from dawn to dusk.

In recognition of volunteerism and IYV+10, the 125 volunteers, mobilized by UNV to assist during the Conference, were summoned to the stage by Mr. Akasaka during the Closing Ceremony and thanked for their efforts. In a gesture of solidarity with the volunteers, the members of the dais donned the same specially-designed volunteer t-shirts.

A new feature of this year's Conference was the scheduling of three noontime presentations on the theme of the Conference. UN programmes participating in these sessions were UN Environment Programme, UN Development Programme and UN Volunteers.

During the Opening Ceremony, the participants were treated to musical performances by "Sinfonia di vetro", a professional ensemble of glass/water musicians led by Sascha Reckert, innovator of the aquaphone, with vocalist Rhet Brewer. At the conclusion, the audience listened to renditions of German and non-German songs by the Deutsche Welle Choir under the direction of Maja Braun.

The three-day event was deemed a true example of successful partnership between the United Nations and civil society to raise awareness about volunteerism and sustainability, and a tribute to the important role of civil society in the United Nations system.

## NGO Association

As has become traditional, regional NGOs were given priority in associating with DPI in advance of the Conference. As a result, DPI/NGO Relations associated 11 NGOs from Western Europe and Eastern Europe.

Following are the newly associated NGOs:

Access to Information Programme Foundation (AIP) (**Bulgaria**); Balkan Assist Association (**Bulgaria**); Biovision – Foundation for Ecological Development (**Switzerland**); International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI) (**Austria**); Island Child Charitable Trust (**New Zealand**); Lebendige Kommunikation mit Frauen in ihren Kulturen (LebKom) (**Germany**); Meeting Per L'Amicizia Fra I Popoli/ Meeting for Friendship amongst Peoples (Rimini Meeting) (**Italy**); Open Society Institute – Sofia (OSI) (**Bulgaria**); Partners Albania, Center for Change and Conflict Management (**Albania**); Ratiu Foundation for Democracy/Ratiu Center for Democracy (**Romania**); Refleksione Association (**Albania**); UN Women National Committee (**Germany**); Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) (**Bangladesh**).



# Summary of Plenary and Roundtable Presentations

## Conference Opening Session

In his remarks at the Opening Ceremony, **Kiyo Akasaka**, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, stated that the issues before the Conference, sustainable development and civic engagement, “are real and urgent”.

“We have only to look at the famine across the Horn of Africa – in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia – to see the scale of suffering as a result of climate, conflict and governance. Today, more than 12.4 million people are in desperate need. More than 300,000 children across the region are severely malnourished and at imminent risk of dying. In Somalia alone, 1.4 million children are affected by this crisis. The future of an entire generation hangs in the balance. The UN humanitarian appeal for the hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa is still less than 60 percent funded. The UN stills needs \$1 billion more”.

Mr. Akasaka said governments, the public, NGOs and the private sector should do their share in battling the worst famine in decades. Meanwhile the UN has been providing life-saving assistance to tackle the food crisis as well as taking steps to encourage sustainable livelihoods and food and nutrition security.

“The famine in the Horn of Africa reminds us of why we are here”, Mr. Akasaka said.

The Under-Secretary-General said contemporary challenges of food, energy, finance, water and climate are “many, and complex” as society faces what the UN Secretary-General has called the “50-50-50 Challenge.”

“By the year 2050, the world’s population will reach more than 9 billion – 50 percent more people than at the start of this century. By the same year, 2050, the world must cut global greenhouse gases emissions by 50 percent from 2000 levels. We must rise to this challenge, but it will be difficult”, he said.

Mr. Akasaka said climate change negotiations are at a crucial stage, with greenhouse gas emissions increasing to record-high levels in 2010. However, while some progress on forests and financing is visible, he noted that “too many words and promises are still broken or fail to turn into action. Are we keeping up our commitments to achieving sustainable patterns of consumption and production?”

The dais for the Opening Ceremony, from left, Vandana Shiva, Flavia Pansieri, Kiyo Akasaka, Achim Steiner, Grace Aguiling-Dalisay and Felix Dodds.





Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in a video message, urges NGOs “to commit, encourage and volunteer.”

He indicated that Rio+20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil next June, is an enormous opportunity for young and older generations alike to contribute to a more sustainable future. Mr. Akasaka said that venue is an opportunity to put sustainable development at the centre of international policy-making and civic engagement worldwide.

Mr. Akasaka warned the participants that sustainable societies don't just happen; that they depend on informed, engaged, and empowered citizens who work to make their societies sustainable – and, he added, “Each one of us, each citizen, can make a difference.”

“This Conference pays tribute to the millions of volunteers who every day, everywhere, volunteer to make the world a better place. Here in Bonn, thanks to the UNV, more than 100 volunteers who speak about 25 different languages are helping us. Cheers to them.

“Let me tell you about news relating to sustainable societies and responsive citizens. Many of you know that Japan is recovering from a series of catastrophic disasters that struck the country in March: an earthquake, followed by a tsunami, followed by severe damage at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. As a result of the severe damage caused by this triple disaster, everyone in Japan is obliged to save energy. Many new ideas have emerged and are being put into practice.

“One example is that the starting times of the hugely popular all Japan high-school baseball competition have been advanced – to start the games earlier. This means avoiding night games and the use of power-consuming stadium lights, and avoiding the broadcasting of the games on TV at peak times of energy use in the evening. From the individual high school baseball players, to the organizers of the games, to the media companies that

“Are we keeping up our commitments to achieving sustainable patterns of consumption and production?” – Kiyo Akasaka



broadcast them for profit, everyone can make a difference, everyone can save energy. They did it [in Japan] as they had the will and consensus to do so.

“However, we must not wait for catastrophes to act. We can do much better with a bit of ingenuity and innovative, creative ideas,” he related.

Mr. Akasaka expressed his hope that the NGOs’ ideas and Final Declaration will be taken forward to Rio+20 as well as to the General Assembly summit on volunteerism held this past December.

“It is you – NGOs and volunteers – who can inform, educate, and change minds, attitudes and practices. If we are better informed and educated, we could do better to change our attitudes and improve our living conditions so that they can be inherited by our children and grandchildren”, Mr. Akasaka said. “In all that you do, you have a strong partner in the United Nations. Let’s work together to make a difference for a better world”.



Mayor **Jürgen Nimptsch**, referring to Bonn’s favorite son, Ludwig van Beethoven, welcomed civil society to Bonn by reciting the “Ode to Joy” lyrics written for the composer’s Ninth Symphony, which inspired the European anthem. The Mayor said in part:

“These wonderful, visionary words also inspired our City Logo: Freude.Joy.Joie.Bonn. They stand for our history as the cradle of German Democracy. They stand for what we aim at, together with more than 950 UN officials in Bonn: a sustainable development worldwide. They stand for the spirit of volunteering – of reaching out to and embracing millions.

“May they also inspire this conference, as they express what is at the very heart of sustainable development.

“You have come together to discuss how sustainable societies can benefit from the responses of civil societies. Encourage, commit, volunteer - this is the inspiring claim on the conference website. Let me say that I deeply believe that all of you have, for long, com-

NGOs filled the main hall for the Opening Ceremony of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference.





Members of the dais of the Opening Ceremony meet the press, from left, Felix Dodds, Vandana Shiva, Kiyo Akasaka, Achim Steiner, Grace Aguilin-Dalisay and Flavia Pansieri.

mitted to our common cause. And most of you are amongst those who volunteer for their societies in one way or another. Your brilliant examples encourage others – and I would like to encourage you to continue with these tireless efforts.

“As Mayor of Bonn, I am grateful for the valuable contributions of NGOs and individuals in essential areas of our society. And I know that Mayors all over the world feel alike, they are grateful and encouraged by this tremendous support they receive. Societies are only sustainable to the degree that people support them and commit to them. This support and commitment takes many forms: Like young people planting trees for the planet. Like the UN volunteers working in crisis regions. Like those who donate for climate protection or poverty alleviation. Like citizens who take care of the elderly or disabled. Like people who speak out loud for human rights, for social inclusion, for peace and justice. This planet is in our hands – for better or worse! I am particularly happy that you, each of you as an individual, have taken a lead in action. And I am proud that Bonn is the place to demonstrate this lead and to spread the word of it during this 64th UN DPI/NGO Conference.”



UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**, in his welcoming video message, urged NGOs, young and old, to be the driving forces behind sustainable development and citizen responsiveness.

The full text of his remarks follows:

Distinguished guests and NGO delegates, thank you for taking part in this year’s United Nations DPI/NGO Conference.

“Like citizens who take care of the elderly or disabled. Like people who speak out loud for human rights, for social inclusion, for peace and justice. This planet is in our hands – for better or worse”.  
– Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch



And I also want to thank the City of Bonn for hosting.

You have chosen an important and timely theme. Voluntary action is one of the highest expressions of our common humanity.

Sustainable societies need responsive citizens. This year, we have seen how individuals can make a difference by uniting through social networks and working for change. We need to harness the same energy in the service of the planet that sustains us.

Next year, world leaders will meet for the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Science tells us we are contributing to dangerous climate change. We are adjusting the capacity of our planet to guarantee our sustainable future.

The solution lies in a fundamental transformation of our consumption patterns and lifestyles. We must create a sustainable green economy that will protect the environment and help us achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Such change will not occur overnight, and it will not be possible without the involvement of all sectors of society. Your voices, your actions and your grassroots organizations can help to move us closer to our goals.

Each one of you, individually and collectively, has an important role to play. We need your networks and your best ideas.

I count on you to commit, encourage and volunteer, and I thank you for coming together to do just that. I wish you a productive meeting.



President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly, **Joseph Deiss**, urged civil society to be engaged in the preparations for the Conference on Sustainable Development: Rio+20.

The full text of his remarks follows:

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens” is a theme of great significance and importance for our own well being and that of future generations.

It is our duty to make a difference. I’m therefore particularly pleased to address so many representatives of non-governmental organizations in Bonn.

Environmental degradation and climate change cannot be reversed overnight. Sustainable development is a challenging process. Without the involvement of the world citizen, without the continued commitment of the civil society, there is very little the international community can achieve on this front.

The process of preparing for the RIO +20 Conference on Sustainable Development to be held next year has already provided Member-States and other actors an opportunity

“The environmental challenges that we are experiencing today are being exacerbated by an increase in the global population, by urbanization, and by industrialization”. – Joseph Deiss



for discussions on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Our societies must make choices that would keep away from a carbon intensive culture. The environmental challenges that we are experiencing today are being exacerbated by an increase in the global population, by urbanization, and by industrialization.

But we can and we should address these challenges. As I stated last June, in New York, on the occasion of the General Assembly informal thematic debate on the green economy, development must be equitable and sustainable. It must meet the needs of every generation today without jeopardizing the opportunity for the generations to come.

The fundamental question is whether all of us on this planet will be capable of acting wisely and adopting behaviour that will avert a catastrophe.

Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch, whose city is hosting this DPI/NGO Conference, would agree with me that this event is tailor made for Bonn. But the spirit of this Conference will hopefully provide a new impetus to governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in both developed and developing countries so that the environmental protection and conservation of resources will bring economic benefits no matter what the level of development.

Finally, let me thank the men, women and particularly the young people whose engagement and responses to our global challenges contribute to a better world. I thank you for your kind attention.



**Flavia Pansieri**, in her capacity as Chair of the Consultative Forum of the Heads of UN Agencies in Germany – the head of the UN family in Bonn, welcomed civil society and the other Conference participants to Bonn and thanked Mayor Nimptsch for hosting the UN’s premier NGO event. She noted that the city’s UN network works “towards sustainable development worldwide. Thus Bonn is the perfect host for this year’s UN DPI/NGO Conference – Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens”.

However, Ms. Pansieri pointed out that “Achieving sustainable development is not just the job of governments and the United Nations. Sustainable societies need responsive citizens and responsive civil society organizations – people who rise to the challenge, who take action of their own free will, and work together towards a better and brighter future for everyone around them”.

Stating that the organization of the Conference was a true collaboration of all stakeholders, Ms. Pansieri specifically said: “I, in particular, wish to acknowledge the strong support of the German Federal Government and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the additional financial support from the European Regional Development Fund through the State of Nordrhein-Westfalen and from the Foundation for International Dialogue of the Sparkasse in Bonn”.

Ms. Pansieri told NGOs that sustainable development is an enormous task that requires enormous response, and only citizens of the world can meet this challenge. As a result, she said NGOs must connect sustainable development and civic engagement and find new ways to strengthen and encourage all people into a force for transformation of their communities.



Glass musician Sascha Reckert and his Verophone ensemble perform a composition by vocalist Rhet Brewer.



“Therefore you will look at people-centred approaches to sustainable development. About approaches that enable people to get involved. Just imagine, millions of responsive citizens acting together for sustainable development, and a better, more peaceful, world. Over the next few days, you can drive this idea forward and make the voices of responsive citizens heard”, she said.

Reminding the attendees that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, Ms. Pansieri expressed her hope that “this Conference will be a turning point for recognizing the fact that involving people is the central element for achieving sustainable development worldwide. That can be your greatest contribution to the next generations.”



**Vandana Shiva**, founder of Navdanya International, an organization centered on cultural and biological diversity, stated that NGO delegates should recognize the interconnectivity of the environment and the economy. Speaking about green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty, Ms. Shiva said the concept would not offer useful alternatives if old paradigms of market-driven solutions, which have failed to protect the earth, remain in the forefront of activity.

Ms. Shiva said commodification, trade in nature’s gifts, and trade wars impoverish the earth and local communities, and further destroy democracy.

“If, on the other hand, the answers are offered in the context of the emerging paradigm of the Rights of Mother Earth, then the green economy is Gaia’s economy [Gaia: the pri-

“An earth-centered, people-centered green economy would put nature’s ecological cycles as the drivers and shapers of the economy, it would put people first, not investors”. – Vandana Shiva





Lord Mayor of Bonn Jürgen Nimptsch welcomes civil society to his city for the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference.

mordial Earth-goddess, the great mother of all, in ancient Greek religion - ed.] and the institutional framework is Earth Democracy, democracy from the bottom up, democracy rooted in the Earth”, she pointed out.

According to Ms. Shiva, the collapse of financial markets in September 2008 and the continuing crisis signaled the end of the paradigm that put what she called fictitious finance above real wealth created by nature and humans; a paradigm that put profits above people and corporations above citizens.

“This paradigm can only be kept afloat with limitless bailouts that direct public wealth to private rescue instead of using it to rejuvenate nature and economic livelihoods for people. It can only be kept afloat with increasing violence to the earth and people. It can only be kept alive as an economic dictatorship”, she said.

Ms. Shiva further stated that “the technological fundamentalism that has externalized costs, both ecological and social, and blinded us to ecological destruction, has also reached a dead end. Climate chaos, the externality of technologies based on the use of fossil fuels, is a wakeup call that we cannot continue on the fossil fuel path. The high cost of industrial farming is running up against limits, both in terms of the ecological destruction of the natural capital of soil, water, biodiversity and air, as well as in terms of the creation of malnutrition, with a billion people denied food and another 2 billion denied health because of obesity, diabetes and other food related diseases”.

Ms. Shiva emphasized that green economics needs to be authentically green, clarifying that it cannot be the brown of desertification and deforestation and it cannot be the red of violence against nature and people, or the unnecessary conflicts over natural resources of land, water, seeds and food.

She explained that to be green, economics needs to return to “its home, to oikos” [Oikos: the ancient Greek equivalent of a household, house, or family - ed.]. Ms. Shiva indicated that ecology and economics are derived from “oikos” with ecology being the science of household, and economics being the management of the household.



“When economics works against the science of ecology, it results in the mismanagement of the earth, our home. The climate crisis, the water crisis, the biodiversity crisis, the food crisis are different symptoms of this crisis of mismanagement of the earth and her resources”, she said. “We mismanage the earth when we do not recognize nature’s capital as the real capital and everything else as derived. If we have no land, we have no economy. When we contribute to growth of nature’s capital, we build green economies. And the richer nature’s capital is, the richer human society is”.

Ms. Shiva said the current multidimensional ecological crises are the consequences of the war against the Earth. She recommended that in addressing these crises, mankind must stop this war and not exacerbate them through further commodification of nature and its services as is being proposed in some versions of the green economy.

Referring to the UN Environment Programme, which notes that “in a green economy, growth in income and employment should be driven by private and public investments that reduce carbon emission and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, Ms. Shiva said: “This is the old paradigm in green clothes. It has no place for people, no place for Gaia’s laws. It is still driven by the flawed laws of financial markets”.

Wondering if “green” will be shaped by women’s skills, knowledge, values, or merely by the continued greed of capitalist patriarchy, Ms. Shiva warned NGOs that on the path to Rio+20 there is danger that the movement’s gains will be eroded.

“We need to strengthen Rio, not undermine it”, she declared.

Noting the a green economy is earth and people centered, Ms. Shiva said earth-centered green economy begins with the recognition of the rights of Mother Earth and the rights of all species of the earth, including the human species.

“The green economy recognizes nature’s economy as its foundation. The green economy recognizes the sustenance economy through which human needs – material, emotional, psychological, cultural, spiritual – are provided. The corporate-centered green economy ignores both nature’s economy and people’s sustenance economy, and thus undermines both creating the ecological crisis and the crisis of dispossession and poverty”, she said.

“In the earth-centered green economy, the resources of the earth vital to life – biodiversity, water, air – are common for the common good for all. While the corporate green economy is based on privatization and commodification of the earth’s resources, the earth-centered green economy is based on recovery of the commons and the intrinsic value of the earth and all her species”, she explained. “While the corporate green economy caters to corporate profits, it fails in providing for people’s needs and defending their rights. It is based on resource intensive, pollution intensive production and consumption with low human benefits. The earth-centered economy is based on treading lightly on the earth while maximizing wellbeing and welfare for all. This is increasingly evident in the way we meet our most basic need – food. An earth-centered, people-centered green economy would put nature’s ecological cycles as the drivers and shapers of the economy, it would put people first, not investors. It would build on women’s core contributions to create economies of sustenance and care that enhance the well being of all”.

Ms. Shiva said it is false to claim that exploiting the earth creates economic value and economic growth, thus improving human welfare. She said while human welfare is invoked to separate humans from the earth and justify its limitless exploitation, on the contrary, all of humanity does not benefit – in fact most of humanity loses.



“Pitting humans against nature is not merely anthropocentric, it is corporatocentric. The earth community has been reduced to humans, and humans have been further reduced to corporations as legal persons. Corporations then reshape part of humanity as consumers of their products and part of humanity as disposable. Consumers lose their identity as earth citizens, as co-creators and co-producers with nature. Those rendered disposable lose their very lives and livelihoods”, she observed.



Setting out to address both sustainable development and responsive citizenship, **Grace Aguilung-Dalisay** of VSO Bahaginan in the Philippines said she understood human development to be a “process whereby children grow up to be healthy and socially responsible adults; that development unfolds as children, youth and adults participate actively in their lifelong process of change and growth. As such, human development is influenced by the interaction of children’s individual capacities; the nature of their immediate personal relationships; the psycho-socio-cultural and physical environment at the community, national and global levels; as well as the predominant thinking and behaviour of the world’s decision-makers in a given era”.

In these circumstances, she continued, children become adults who are committed to achieving their full potential with the best interests of future generations in mind. Consequently, she said, healthy psychological development is anchored in the principle of sustainability: “living a balanced life and enjoying the earth’s resources in a way that passes on to those who come after us, the same privilege”.

“However, optimum growth and positive change across the lifespan have been increasingly compromised, even truncated, by financial insecurity, family instability, socio-cultural inequity, armed conflict, and geologic upheavals. Children have been clearly disadvantaged when their physiological, socio-psychological and economic needs are unmet by their parents; and by the communities, business corporations, schools, churches, and governments they are inevitably part of. The collective and inter-generational capacity to create societies of active citizens is further threatened by the absence, or soul-less implementation, of policies and laws aimed at the reduction of poverty, disadvantage and marginalization,” Ms. Aguilung-Dalisay explained.

Ultimately, she continued, sustainability will be driven by people who willingly serve outside the call of duty and share needed time and skills professionally.

“It has been these volunteers who have been the catalysts for change both at the individual level – running waste segregation management programs for parents, providing meditation and spiritual exercises to flood survivors – and at a macro level – working with communities to lobby for the implementation of laws against illegal logging, or working with government education officials in curriculum revision for a culturally appropriate and gender-sensitive education for sustainable development,” Ms. Aguilung-Dalisay said. “Armed with their skills and unencumbered by the restrictions of the paid work place, volunteers are able to bridge turfs and address the multi-dimensional, multi-sectoral challenges brought about by poverty.”

“It has been said that volunteers are the best kept secret of every high-functioning institution”. – Grace Aguilung-Dalisay



NGOs listen attentively to the addresses during the opening session.



Ms. Aguilin-Dalisay recalled that the UN Declaration of 2001 designating the International Year of the Volunteer highlighted four pillars of the celebration: promotion, recognition, facilitation and networking. She specifically called attention to two of them: recognition and networking.

Networking has opened new partnership opportunities for development work, including what Ms. Aguilin-Dalisay called mutually beneficial collaborations with national governments, local governments, the corporate sector, faith-based groups, and academic institutions.

“Learning from these best practices, it is now incumbent upon volunteer organizations and development agencies working with volunteers, to consolidate their efforts for greater development effectiveness, and for crystallising the unique contribution of volunteerism to society”, she said.

Ms. Aguilin-Dalisay advised that volunteer contributions to development must be recognized for what they are.

“It has been said that volunteers are the best kept secret of every high-functioning institution, and this may be true, possibly even in the UN”, she said, adding that volunteerism is active citizenship, a development strategy, a way of life.

“In closing, let me share my hope that children, youth and adults co-create societies with a spirit that honors the future as much as the present; with abilities to proactively change systems, infrastructure and ways of thinking which create divides; with behaviours that respect interpersonal and social relationships; with value for the nurturance of a person’s inner being”, Ms. Aguilin-Dalisay said. “My belief is that volunteering contributions are significant in each of these dimensions, and at all phases of life. My belief is that children, who live in a world that values volunteering for all, are better equipped to participate fully as responsive members of society throughout their lifetime, and are likely to be volunteers who will continue the cycle of sustainability across generations. I would like to think I am not alone”.





**Achim Steiner**, Executive Director of UN Environment Programme, said the process leading to Rio+20 not only needs the voice of civil society but also its passion, experience, vision, creativity and determination.

Mr. Steiner further noted that without NGOs' involvement and the broad alliances that they represent the process is unlikely to deliver a "defining, decisive outcome".

"Major groups, from women and trade unions to the private sector, environmental NGOs and indigenous peoples know more than anyone that we live in an increasingly unequal world; that the environmental services upon which we all depend - and especially the poor - are also fast hitting limits as a result of decades of pollution, damage and degradation", he said. "Enlightened sections of the private sector can already see the writing on the wall - we live on a planet where climate change and the loss of productive ecosystems can and will increasingly disrupt global supply chains".

While an "extraordinary level" of achievement has occurred in some areas, such as the millions who were lifted out of poverty in places like China and India as well as substantial growth of the world's network of protected areas, Mr. Steiner noted that the development path has also "by-passed far too many, brought prosperity to the few rather than the majority, and is running an ecological bill that is paid by the poor and the vulnerable every day and will ultimately be picked up by the coming generation".

Staying on this course, he warned, "is simply a road to nowhere rather than a road to Rio 2012".

Turning briefly to the green economy, Mr. Steiner pointed out that the strong emotions that it provokes in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication are welcome, but, he added, "we need a strong and animated discourse but only so long as it is more light than heat that is generated".

"For some the green economy represents the logical evolution of sustainable development, a path to making economies more responsive to the needs and aspirations of all peoples—a way of making globalization a servant rather than a master. For others it smacks of some kind of green gloss, conspiring to maintain the existing economic order but in a way that provides a feel good factor", he said.

Noting that UNEP became involved in the green economy in 2008 by building on the work pioneered by NGOs, Mr. Steiner said it has been his programme's intention to provide "a re-think and the supporting analysis of how to shape the global economy in a way that provides growth but also transformative social and environmental outcomes".

Mr. Steiner recalled that civil society was crucial to the establishment of UNEP, and almost from the onset there have been calls from many quarters for the programme to be strengthened. Due to planning for Rio+20, those calls are resurfacing with vigour, he said.

"We have a management regime that to date is failing this generation's search for sustainable development". - Achim Steiner



Discussing the dilution of the UNEP's efforts brought about by the establishment of 500 Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA), which have become burdens for developing countries, Mr. Steiner said a summary of the number of meetings and decisions taken by Conferences of Parties of 18 major MEAs in the years 1992-2007 shows that 540 meetings were held at which 5,084 decisions were made.

"If one wishes to be direct, we have been merely dealing with symptom upon symptom, giving the impression that challenges have been addressed but in fact masking root causes and root solutions. This approach has also prevented a more synergistic and effective approach from emerging. So we have a management regime that to date is failing this generation's search for sustainable development and will certainly short change the next unless a more effective, stronger, coherent and focused governance system can be established", he said.

Mr. Steiner said the key question is not just whether a global organization for the environment is needed but how it would be configured, and if its activity would prove to be transformative.

He listed some of the points under discussion:

- Firstly, it would require the authority to allow ministers responsible for the environment to achieve some parity and equity with their economic and social counterparts.
- Equally, there is a need for an anchor institution to provide authoritative policy guidance to the MEAs in order to address fragmentation and build a far more strategic direction between all the distinct parts of the current environment corpus.
- Another glaring gap linked with the existing governance arrangements is implementation.
- Other important elements include building accountability into existing and future environmental agreements and decisions, backed up by peer review and review mechanisms. The African Union, the WTO and the Human Rights Council offer examples.
- Finally science: Sound science underpins sound policymaking, but all too often the wealth of scientific knowledge available to governments is unfiltered or unfit for cooperative decision making.

"The institutional framework for sustainable development needs to be more than environment. But without a strengthening of international environment governance whatever is potentially agreed in Rio+20 will only contribute to a persistence of the challenges, rather than the delivery of the opportunities and the imperative for a more intelligent and equitable 21st century development.

"As leaders from civil society, here in Bonn to shape and sharpen your position for June 2012, you come from many backgrounds and points of view. But we all share the same fundamental convictions that a moment in history may be emerging where it is time to discard those actions, policies and premises that have led to dead ends in favour of scaling up and accelerating those that have worked while embracing paradigm shifts to overcome outstanding hurdles to sustainability", Mr. Steiner opined.

In this context, he said, the world is looking for leadership and a resolution to the divisions of the modern world. The public is not just looking to their elected leaders for clear, cooperative and conclusive ways forward, they are looking to institutions such as the UN and civil society organizations for clarity and a clear voice on the issues.



Mr. Steiner said Rio+20 could be just another conference in a long series of environmental conclaves or it can be like Rio 1992, when the world came together for the benefit of mankind.

“It is for this generation of political leaders to demonstrate that they are up to the task and equal to the previous generation of leaders. Concurrently, it is for this generation of civil society leaders to demonstrate here in Bonn and beyond that they too have the wisdom, willingness and way forward to steer, guide and inspire the political process to a remarkable outcome in nine months time”, he said.



**Felix Dodds**, Chair of the Conference and Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum, pointed out that this NGO event has had “a huge response from civil society and this will enable us to prepare for input to the IYV+10 General Assembly debate, providing another opportunity to promote and recognize volunteers’ amazing contributions to sustainable development all round the world. It will also input to Rio+20 processes”.

Mr. Dodds noted that the topics for discussion are not new and have been talked about for decades, many of them since the Stockholm environmental conference in 1972, where the seminal report from the Club of Rome broached the issue of “limits to growth”.

“We know from the UNEP GEO4 Report, the IPCC, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and from what I have been hearing today that the problems we are facing have not reduced but have become more acute, not as a result of the lack of proclaimed government commitments to action, but to their dismal performance in implementing their agreements”, he said. “Indeed, if governments had implemented the many conventions, treaties and declarations they have negotiated from Stockholm to Rio to Kyoto to Johannesburg, we would be well along the road to sustainability”.

Mr. Dodds underscored that the planet and sustainable development are having a difficult time at the present and Rio+20 Conference should provide much-needed new momentum on environment and sustainable development.

“There have been so many broken promises, this has to stop”, he said.

Rio will address two major themes, said Mr. Dodds:

- The green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development and
- Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development
- Simultaneously, society is facing great challenges on a number of fronts, he continued, noting five of them:
- Human societies are living beyond the carrying capacity of the planet;

“All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world. But we don’t. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity.” – Felix Dodds



- Climate change has emerged as an out-of-control driver;
- There is now an increasing link between environment and security;
- Governments have still not given the UN the mandate, the resources or the institutional capacities required to monitor and enforce international agreements;
- The current consumption economic model, which has brought unprecedented prosperity to the more developed countries, has only deepened the disparity between them and most developing countries.

“The parallels of the ecological problems with the financial crisis are clear. The banks and financial institutions privatized the gains and socialized the losses. An example of the cost of irresponsibility in Iceland, where the action of a few bankers has left a debt, which amounts to \$330,000 for every man, woman and child in Iceland”, he said. “We are doing the same with the planet’s natural capital. We are, according to WWF, operating at 25% above the biological capacity to support life and that is before adding another billion people by 2020”.

Mr. Dodds said the principal goal of economy should be to improve the lives of all of the people on earth and “to free them from want and ignorance - without compromising the planet itself”.

“This DPI/NGO Conference will come forward with NGO recommendations for the Rio process, a set of new sustainable development goals for the green economy. This will include ones on energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, food security, water, urbanization, forestry and the blue economy”, he said. “It will come forward with suggestions on the how to reform our institutions at all levels to address the challenges we face. This would include support for the creation of a Sustainable Development Council of the UN General Assembly - to address new and emerging issues and the inter-linkages between them such as energy security, water security, food security, climate security”.

Mr. Dodds said NGOs are calling for the establishment three conventions:

- Regional conventions around Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration - Access to Information, Public Participation and Environmental Justice in Europe, called the Aarhus Convention
- Environment Corporate Accountability and Responsibility Convention
- A new Technologies Convention to deal with things such as nano technology and GMOs and some of the crazy ideas in mitigating climate change

Noting that environment and security are intertwined, Mr. Dodds said “the environment-security/insecurity nexus covers overlapping issues such as climate security, energy security, ecosystem destruction, biodiversity loss, food security, water security, and health security, which will all contribute to an increase in environmental refugees”.

Mr. Dodds opined that the foundation for a green economy and a strong institutional framework for sustainable development is people. “As people are consumers, activists, volunteers, and (responsive) citizens. People actively engaged in their communities and societies will ensure action to effectively tackle pressing sustainable development issues” he said.



“Finally I would like to give you a challenge. The German Chancellor announced that she is going to Rio+20. I am reminded of something that Bobby Kennedy said:

“‘On this generation falls the burden of proving to the world that we really mean it when we say all people are created free and are equal and should benefit from the fruits of this planet we live on in a sustainable way’.

“All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world. But we don’t. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity.”



## UNIDO: Future of Green Industry is Improvements in Energy and Resource Efficiency

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges to sustainable development, which cannot be solved without an energy revolution that addresses social injustice and poverty, according to **Kandeh K. Yumkella**, Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). There are currently 1.5 billion people without access to electricity – 500 million in Africa alone – and 2-3 billion relying on biomass as their primary energy service. Without an energy revolution that extends access globally, economic prosperity will not spread and international agendas such as the Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved, Mr. Yumkella warned in a presentation prior to the start of Roundtable One.

In order to address the energy problem, an international agenda must be finalized, he urged. The General Assembly has designated 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, which will support the Energy Action Agenda endorsed by the Secretary-General. Mr. Yumkella said these efforts will aim to work with governments and local communities to make energy technology available to the poor and look at the social dimensions of lack of access, especially through the empowerment of women. In addition to local support, he said, public and private partnerships with industries will be needed for funding and technology development.

Collective action in Rio+20 is essential to creating a sustainable model to address the future of energy reform, he said. The energy revolution must include developing regions such as Africa, which has funded past industrial revolutions with its natural resources, but has always been marginalised and left out of development. Africa and other developing regions must be lifted out of poverty, not through charity, but by ensuring the spread of economic prosperity starting with energy access, he said. The future of green industry is dependent upon improvements in resource efficiency, energy efficiency, water optimization

Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director General, UNIDO, discusses the mutually important topics of energy efficiency and green economy.



tion, sustainable jobs and youth employment. Mr. Yumkella said UNIDO has defined three goals to be achieved by 2030: to achieve universal access to energy, to improve global energy efficiency by 40% and to achieve a 30% share of renewables in global energy.

UNIDO's three goals by 2030:

- Achieve universal access to energy,
- Improve global energy efficiency by 40%
- Achieve a 30% share of renewables in global energy.

For more information on the campaign for green industry please visit [www.un-energy.org](http://www.un-energy.org).



## Roundtable One:

# Shaping Sustainable Lifestyles and Livelihoods – Sustainable Consumption and Production Aspects of a Globalizing World

This Roundtable was moderated by **Sue Riddlestone**, BioRegional Development Group; and panelists included **Victoria Tauli-Corpuz**, Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education), **Daniel Bena**, PepsiCo, **Daniela Bosioc**, European Volunteer Centre, and **Jiangwen Long**, China Association of Women Entrepreneurs.

The first speaker, **Jiangwen Long** of the China Association of Women Entrepreneurs, spoke about the necessity of joint efforts by all segments of society to achieve sustainable consumption and production. She underlined that governments, NGOs and responsible entrepreneurs must find ways of working together.

She said Chinese NGOs actively promote a green lifestyle, raise awareness for saving water, and are conscientious energy consumers. Efforts to reduce the usage of plastic bags are incorporated in primary school education across China, she noted. NGOs and volunteers have also been working together to fight severe problems of rain that results in mudslides and then lack of access to water. Water and solar energy projects are among the most important improvements, she said. The rapid increase in automobile usage has brought about such serious problems as air pollution and traffic jams. As a result, traffic restrictions have been introduced. This is the first year of a new five-year economic and social development plan that seeks to save resources and build an environmentally friendly society through changing production and consumption patterns.

Daniela Bosioc, European Volunteer Centre, discusses the role of volunteerism in sustainable development.





NGOs filled the Maritim's plenary hall for Roundtable One.

In addition to NGOs and the government, entrepreneurs also need to get involved and consider a wide spectrum of ways they can conduct their businesses. Businesses have a direct impact on global development and, furthermore, socially responsible entrepreneurs enhance the well being of the whole society. Society and businesses need to be green, environmentally friendly and support low carbon technologies, she said. The “Go Green Action Plan” is an initiative representing environmentally friendly cooperation of businesses and customers. Examples include green supermarkets with enhanced food safety and organic food products.

Ending her presentation, Mrs. Long, expressed her wish for a beautiful and harmonious world.

The second speaker, **Daniela Bosioc** of the European Volunteer Centre, spoke about the importance and potential of volunteerism. She said it is necessary to create a beneficial environment for volunteering in order to showcase its full potential. In these circumstances, volunteers need to have a voice. Ms. Bosioc pointed out that volunteering in Europe has decreased geographical separation in a global context. Volunteering is gaining importance as formal education cannot provide certain skills such as solidarity in times of need. If all volunteers in Europe would form a country, called “Volunteerland”, it would be the sixth largest country in the world, she said. Still, the political weight of this country would be significantly small.

**Victoria Tauli-Corpuz** from Tebtebba, the third speaker, discussed the importance of maintaining the remaining vestiges of our ecosystem as well as the role of traditional indigenous values of that process.

Practicing sustainable development is important for indigenous peoples, she pointed out. This is supported in society by very strict custom laws that revolve around the golden rule of “Don’t do to others what you don’t want others to do you”.

In addition, a set of taboos also exist, which, for example, prohibit water pollution. Another rule worthy of emulation is to recycle everything from water to waste, he elaborated. Unsustainable consumption and production systems are the leading reasons for the de-



struction of our ecosystem. Indigenous peoples have realized the importance of resource efficiency and biodiversity; however, governments keep turning forests into monoculture plantations of agricultural commodities, she said. Still, indigenous peoples use their traditional knowledge to preserve the remains of the ecosystem, which can be called the highest form of volunteerism and citizenship. Therefore, defending indigenous territories against colonization and modernization means living in peace with nature, and fostering respect for mother earth from one generation to the next, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz said.

Indigenous territories are already contributing to sustainable development, she claimed, and Denmark is a positive example of a developed country involved in this campaign. The country has successfully coped with the integration of significant amounts of renewable energy; while other countries often fail to implement environmentally friendly policies due to the lack of coherence and consistency of policies throughout changing governments. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz said the United Nations has to foster the implementation of national plans. Technological innovations alone cannot cope with population growth and the resulting increase in demand. Most new technologies are beyond the reach of poor countries, she said. The current economic growth model has resulted in multiple financial crises, in the environmental crisis of biodiversity and climate change and in the increasing inequity. Therefore another, better economic growth model is needed, she suggested.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz explained that indigenous values, such as reciprocity, caring, sharing and collectivity live on in the “natural law”. Consequently, indigenous peoples are not afraid to live according to this law, despite enduring human rights violations, as they believe in their responsibility for mother earth. Traditional indigenous values that were called primitive in a globalised consumption structure represent today effective sources of sustainability and indigenous peoples are proud that most of the remaining segments of our ecosystem are in their territories.

Mother earth mandated us to preserve our ecosystem, she said, noting the job not well done by previous and recent generations. Key factors for consideration by future generations are the realization of the role of local communities, strengthening sustainable consumption systems, implementing an ecosystem approach and strengthening social sensitivity. Ecosystem science, she said, cannot be transmitted by university education and is best practiced by people who live in places where the ecosystem has been sustained. These people should be strongly supported in their efforts with a holistic approach, containing elements of human rights and ecosystem knowledge. Nevertheless governments also have an important role in implementing these policies and the UN should monitor implementation.

The fourth speaker to speak was **Daniel Bena** of PepsiCo, the only corporate representative at the Conference. He spoke about corporate responsibility and potential contributions of companies to sustainable development.

Mr. Bena started his multimedia presentation with a video message that was recorded 20 years ago at the first Rio summit. Many of the problems listed in 1992 still apply today and it is hard to tell what has changed. Therefore, he said, an important consideration is “if you cannot fix it, stop breaking it”.

Businesses have a direct impact on global development and socially responsible entrepreneurs enhance the well being of the whole society.





Daniel Bena of PepsiCo elaborates on a point with Jiangwen Long, China Association of Women Entrepreneurs listening on the right.

Noting that companies differ from governments and NGOs, Mr. Bena said that as companies sell their products to consumers it is increasingly important to know what consumers want and for companies to react faster to those needs. The second priority for consumers is that companies should not harm the environment. He said companies around the world can contribute to sustainable development in several ways. In addition to direct funding, they can offer capacity building – knowledge and technology sharing and leading by example are effective illustrations, he noted. Communication increases awareness and makes it “cool” to care for the planet. PepsiCo takes advantage of celebrities and athletes to promote environmentally conscious lifestyles. He suggested that companies can use their reach to leverage global logistics and supply chains. PepsiCo is working with the UN food programme on improving logistics and food storage. Corporate support of volunteerism is another important way to foster sustainable development, he said, noting that PepsiCo is creatively engaged with its customers.

Mr. Bena also presented a case study called Pepsi Refresh Project (PRP), through which PepsiCo has provided NGOs with \$20 million in the form of small grants. The project touched more 2.5 million lives, enhanced 129 communities and strengthened 199 organizations. In addition, NGOs were provided with a social media communication platform that raises awareness about their activities. The project expanded resources, attracted new volunteers and created visibility for all grant-winning NGOs. Furthermore through the media attention, the small grants managed to make a real difference in communities. At the end of his speech, Mr. Bena emphasized the importance of hope.

The respondents were **Nis Christensen** from Denmark and **Marian Harkin** from Ireland.

Mr. Christensen repeated that governments, NGOs, local communities and businesses have to work together. In Denmark, involvement of citizens, NGOs and businesses has been institutionalized. The core of sustainability has remained the same, and the same



sectors have been dealt with for a long time. However, he said, while the current crisis offers new opportunities, it is still difficult to deliver the important messages.

Sustainable development is taking the lifecycle principle as a point of departure, he said, thus presenting a new view on sustainable production and consumption. The role of governments today is not as important as it was 20 years ago, he said. Communicating green economy as a way to sustainable development is a new element.

Ms. Harkin said volunteers, as a hugely powerful force, need to be brought to centre stage due to their significant contribution. Despite this, volunteers are often seen by governments as an add-on. Societies are sustainable if they are connected to the people and to the planet, she explained, therefore civic engagement contributes very significantly to sustainable societies. The focus of volunteering is also special. Living well, non-profit views, making a positive impact rather than business-oriented, limitless growth contribute to improvements in our societies. The first step in transforming the current economic model is reconsidering the way we measure societal progress. She said we use only GDP (gross domestic product) to measure progress, a figure that does not reflect social cohesion, distribution issues, access to opportunities and therefore it does not account for sustainability. Volunteerism also needs to be measured by its economic value so that policymakers take account of it, she said. Governments and businesses don't bring about change on their own, but their cooperation with local communities can make a real difference in society, Ms. Harkin said. The marriage of volunteerism and businesses lead to a positive image.

Resource efficiency is a crucial element in sustainable development, and we need to learn it from indigenous peoples as no new technology will save our planet, she noted.

In the last 15 minutes, NGO representatives were given the opportunity to voice their opinion or pose questions to the panellists.



Victoria Tauli-Corpuz of Tebtebba elaborates on volunteerism issues.



Societies are sustainable if they are connected to the people and to the planet, therefore civic engagement contributes very significantly to sustainable societies.

The representative of the Canadian non-profit organization, One Earth, emphasized that one of its main goals is to change measuring what matters and to redesign commerce.

An International Monetary Transformation representative pointed out the importance of the monetary system, which functions like a glue that binds the financial, economic and trade systems together in a globalised world.

A representative of the Columbia Teachers College questioned the absence of corporate representatives at the Conference and suggested that the number of involved companies should be increased.

Another NGO representative suggested that the economy should be measured by the health of nature, and noted that a new global-spaced economy is needed.

At the end of the Roundtable the panellists offered final summaries. Ms. Bosioc said incorporating volunteering is a demonstration of corporate responsibility. Mr. Bena emphasized the importance of creating shared values. Ms. Long's parting message urged that the quality and not quantity of GDP should be measured. The respondents repeated that it is necessary to change the way economic growth is measured. Finally Ms. Tauli-Corpuz said that the earth can take care of itself, it is the human who is causing trouble and it is in our common interest to survive.

*The rapporteur for this Roundtable was Armin Magyar.*



## Roundtable Two:

# Green Economy and Poverty Eradication: Climate Justice as a Bridge to a New Global Economic Paradigm

This Roundtable was moderated by **Nick Nuttall** of the UN Environmental Programme; and panelists included **Surveyor Efik**, Executive Director of Human Orientation Movement for Environment (HOME) and the National Coordinator of Climate Change Network Nigeria (CCN-Nigeria); **Bruce Crowther**, Chair of the Garstang And New Koforidua Linking Association and Executive Director for the FIG Tree; **Daniel Mittler**, Political Director of Greenpeace International; and **Constanza Martinez**, Senior Policy Officer at the Global Policy Unit of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The respondent was **Bedrich Moldan** of the Czech Republic.

The moderator introduced the speakers and stated that the panelists would discuss climate change through the lens of green economy, noting that green economy and renewable energy were not concepts limited to the first world but offer renewed value to environmental and social development around the world.

**Surveyor Efik** pointed out that green economy is undoubtedly the new sustainable development model, which has been designated by the UN Environment Programme as the “new global green deal”, a tool for achieving poverty eradication, addressing climate justice and serving as a bridge to realising a New Global Economic Paradigm. He said a green economy contributes to improved human wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. This initiative is characterised by substantially increased investments in economic sectors that enhance the earth’s natural capital and reduce inequalities.

Mr. Efik cited a passage from UNEP: “The green economy initiative is pro-growth, pro-jobs and pro-poor. It seeks enhanced economic growth, income opportunities and social inclu-

NGOs line up  
to engage  
Roundtable  
panelists in  
deeper  
discussions.



sion”. Just as the green economy should be climate-justice compliant, so is the initiative of the Earth Climate Commons Trust (ECCT), which also seeks enhanced economic growth, income opportunities and social inclusion through robust reduction in global emissions from fossil fuel usage, he said.

## Recommendations for Rio+20

- Designate 2012-22 as a Decade of Green Economy that addresses diverse themes with local stakeholder inclusion, sets caps on resource use and develops management plans to protect ecosystem services for stakeholder justice and benefit sharing of common production as the primary annual measure of effectiveness.
- Adopt Earth Climate Commons Trust as a low-carbon, green economic paradigm for reducing emissions and enhancing poverty eradication, climate justice and developing local resilience around the world.
- Commit to a bottom-up governance strategy for promoting green economy from the local government level to the top, with a focus on empowering civil society engagement for benefit sharing. Currently, urban-based economic activities account for 55 percent of GDP (gross domestic product) in LDC.
- Strengthen civil society partnership to promote advocacy of green economy at the sub-national and local levels via common resource trusts, particularly at the municipal/local government level, where increased population, increased causes of climate change and increased number of vulnerable persons are located.
- For the green economy initiative to be grounded in developing countries, the UN should develop a policy of generating funds from multilateral and bilateral sources for green economy projects and programmes, especially in Africa – where a lot of good policies abound but funds for implementation are missing.
- The UN should set up a global civil society forum on green economy, with regional representatives serving on the global board. This will stimulate civil society stakeholders’ active engagement on green economy on the sub regional and national levels, while promoting civil society and responsive citizenship.



Nick Nuttall of UNEP holds court with an NGO after Roundtable Two



A green economy contributes to improved human wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

**Bruce Crowther** described his 30-year experience as a grassroots campaigner on trade justice and the development of the international movement of more than 1,000 Fair Trade Towns in 22 locations, including London, Paris, Rome, Vancouver and Wellington. Each one uses its own model that is based on the five goals used in the UK.

Fair Trade “contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions and securing the rights of marginalised producers and workers”, he said. Through the FAIRTRADE mark, Fair Trade provides a fair and stable price for farmers, additional social premiums, and greater respect for the environment, and promotes small farmers with a stronger position in world markets and a closer link between consumers and producers.

According to Mr. Crowther, until now, Fair Trade Towns have always been aimed at consumers in the “rich North” but now they are considered to be “Producer Fair Trade Towns” in the South, Mr. Crowther said. The primary aim of Fair Trade Towns is to make an impact on the lives of the producers. However, he continued, there are other benefits for both the community and the local authorities such as increasing social capital and networking within the community, increasing civic pride and helping local authorities to engage better with their communities. Therefore not only have they given rise to off shoots such as Fair Trade universities, schools, and faith groups but also to other initiatives, he said. Since real change arises from ordinary people, Mr. Crowther noted, it is the job of governments and organizations to recognize their actions. The enormous ground swell of support for fair trade demonstrates that people are concerned about social as well as environmental impacts of their purchases – indeed the two are inseparable, he said.

**Daniel Mittler** pointed out that, in fact, green economy and poverty eradication are connected and we are on the bridge of transition to sustainable development and green economy investments. However, he said, overall trends continue going in the wrong direction and governments have failed to deliver on their promises as they continue favoring nuclear power. Climate justice and a fair green economy must be our end goal and not a bridge since they are the new economic paradigm, he emphasized.

“Almost 20 years after the Earth Summit in Rio and 40 years after Stockholm, we know that solutions are available and affordable, that investments in clean technologies are rising and that deforestation can be stopped if there is sufficient political will”, Mr. Mittler said.

However, governments are not to blame alone, there are specific corporate actors like Shell and Exxon that are not learning lessons, he said. They are the reason that we are not farther along the path to a green economy. Mr. Mittler noted that despite this situation, transition is taking place but the single role for Rio+20 should be that it must speed up the process for our children’s future to be safe.

“What we expect is an energy revolution and a clear commitment to renewable energy, energy efficiency and access to clean and safe energy for all by 2020, decentralised, renewable energy for the poor. It is happening, but we need a plan to speed it up”, he said.



Mr. Mittler emphasized that a global commitment to zero deforestation is needed by 2020. Brazil has shown that while it can be done, its experience also demonstrates that without the right policies, achievements can be destroyed.

Calling for the Rio+20 Conference to deliver better governance, Mr. Mittler urged the creation of a specialised UN environment agency, the establishment liability and global rules for all players in the economic sphere. With the world's high seas being our common heritage, the poor must not be deprived of fish as sustenance, he said.

Mr. Mittler said society must agree to realistically limit abuse of the environment, end cynicism and show that all players are on the proverbial bridge, moving towards the other side and achieving climate justice, despite efforts by a few players to halt this movement.

**Constanza Martinez** spoke about IUCN's policy on green economy and highlighted the necessity of transitioning to a green economy:

- IUCN strongly urges all governments to engage in a global transition towards a green economy, starting with the development of nationally-appropriate reforms to economic planning, accounting, finance, and infrastructure development in support of poverty reduction and sustainable development.
- IUCN strongly encourages governments to keep nature at the centre of the debate to ensure that society can thrive on healthy ecosystems in transitioning to a green economy by mainstreaming ecosystem values into the economy; building socio-ecological resilience, and developing a natural resource governance model, which supports local-level ownership and participation.
- IUCN urges governments to take concrete measures to honour their commitment to implementing the 2020 CBD Strategic Plan and to consider the Aichi Targets as key objectives of the transition to a green economy.
- IUCN urges governments to re-examine their economic indicators to identify those which can more faithfully and rigorously reflect the status of human wellbeing and to make sure that the full value of biodiversity ecosystem services are reflected in national accounts and associated fiscal and planning policies.



Roundtable  
Two Panelists,  
from left to  
right, Bedrich  
Moldam, Bruce  
Crowther,  
Nick Nuttall,  
Surveyor Efik,  
Daniel Mittler  
and Constanza  
Martinez.



Education systems in developed countries must create curricula that include courses on green economy and climate justice.

- IUCN urges governments to support investments in natural infrastructure and ecological restoration and to facilitate the development of markets which value the regulatory services provided by ecosystems.
- In order to strengthen broad participation and engagement with civil society, IUCN calls on governments to support multi-stakeholder dialogues and consultation processes, which strengthen the voices of those communities most vulnerable to the adverse effects of unsustainable development.
- In order to strengthen the leadership role of businesses in a green economy, IUCN urges governments to support and encourage companies that are committed to having a net positive impact on biodiversity, notably by supporting the development of markets for biodiversity offsets.

## Respondents and Discussion:

The transition to a green economy must be done in a comprehensive way, addressing all of its aspects. How do we manage the common global issues? One of the speakers cautioned against using the word “must” in relation to governments as society has no power to say “must”. It was pointed out that we have to reach out to the general population, not just to those who already think as we do.

NGOs from the audience questioned whether we bring together our best practices and initiatives? It was recommended that they should be presented at Rio+20. Additionally, they said let us show that we not only have the means to create a green economy, but we are already beginning to do so.

Discussants noted that absence of WTO, IMF and labor unions from the discussion was unfortunate and their presence was important. While there is a need for realism, some NGOs said green economy proponents have to be bold and say “must”. Others said climate justice is not only a bridge, but a goal and a premier value. Some suggested that carbon be made the new monetary system, de-carbonization would benefit society, and dealing with the destructive practices of oil companies.

The panelists in turn noted that there is a need to look at small group initiatives, saying that small investments can make big changes and small groups need funding. They said local authorities have to listen to the people and they must educate the leaders. Additionally, education systems in developed countries must create curricula that include courses on green economy and climate justice.

Despite scientific reality, the speakers said society is accelerating climate change instead of slowing it down. While it is difficult to change the signs, politics must be changed, they said. Calls for real change are growing.

In the second and final round of questions, the NGOs noted that they are seeing an unraveling of real commitments to sustainability and the term green economy is being misused. They believe that the current economic model and free trade agreements give more power to corporations and civil society must speak up because governments are speaking for the corporations.



The developed world was encouraged to set a good example in sustainable behaviour which will be copied by the developing world rather than providing bad ones. Women were encouraged to become involved in sustainable campaigns and civil society must make a connection between war and the environment, environmental destruction and militarism.

The panelists noted that civil society must be ambitious and bold with its demands so that governments can be held accountable for what they do and don't do. They said there is a lot of hypocrisy around the green economy and they urged that science should be the basis of global politics, not opinion.

*The rapporteurs for this Roundtable were Caroljean Willie and Anne Sturm.*



## Roundtable Three:

# Role of Civil Society in a Fast Changing World: Civic Engagement and Voluntary Action for Achieving Sustainability

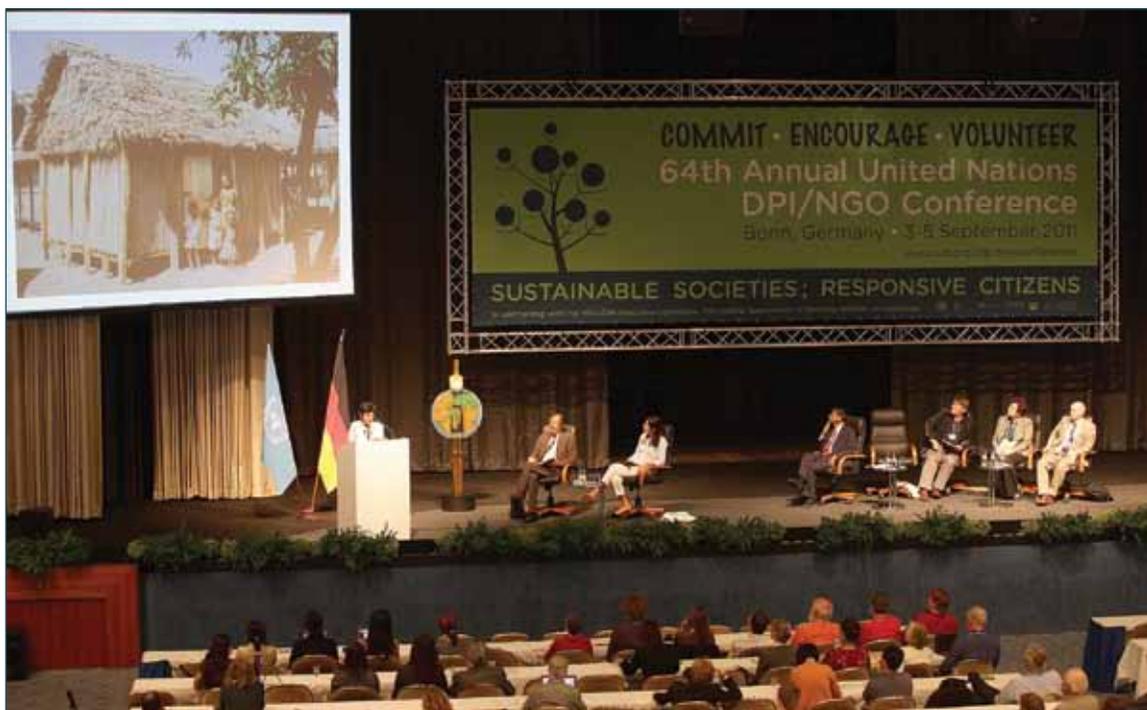
This Roundtable was moderated by **Lalanath de Silva** of Sri Lanka; and panelists included **Anna Golubovska-Onisimova**, MAMA-86, Ukraine; **Rose de Lima Ramanankavana**, International Association of Charities of Madagascar; **Jeremy Wates**, former secretary of Aarhus of UK; and **Kees Biekart**, International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University; and respondents **Heiko Warnken** of Germany and **Maria Angelica Ikeda** of Brazil.

Some of the key points covered in this Roundtable included the observation that every citizen's actions make a difference in situations where there are many challenges, including population increases due to climate-change, poverty, resource depletion, etc. It was emphasized that from small beginnings large outcomes have been possible in many countries. The need to ensure transparency and accountability of governments was pointed out along with the implementation of the right to information and engagement at the global, regional and national levels, which facilitate effective participation. It was noted that communication through technology is opening the world to everyone but may not be addressing the scale of corporate power and regulatory compliance. It was noted that civil energy includes formal and informal actions of individuals but civic-driven change needs to be captured in whatever form it appears in.

## Summary of Discussion

**Rose de Lima Ramanankavana** described the lives of street children and the issues they face. She said in Madagascar, 80 percent of street children live in rural areas, which are

Rose de Lima Ramanankavana, at podium, talks about sustainability in Madagascar. From left are seen: Heiko Warnken, Maria Angelica Ikeda, Lalanath de Silva, Jeremy Wates, Anna Golubovska-Onisimova, and Kees Biekart.





Rose de Lima Ramanankavana, at podium, talks about sustainability in Madagascar. From left are seen: Heiko Warnken, Maria Angelica Ikeda, Lalanath de Silva, Jeremy Wates, Anna Golubovska-Onisimova, and Kees Biekart.

susceptible to flooding, causing the poor to suffer most. She noted that many poor people die of tuberculosis and malaria, and that while Madagascar is famous for its biodiversity, poverty is caused by the lack of an accountable government, which attempts to curb criminality and non-implementation of international agreements such as the International Labour Convention and the Convention on Women. Ms. De Lima Ramanankavana said many people in Madagascar destroy forests and overexploit natural resources while foreigners maximise their profits and act in their own interests. She spoke strongly for increased transparency in the fight against corruption, and for ending the sale of fertile land and other natural resources to international companies. She ended her presentation stating: “Africa’s wealth is its youth”.

**Kees Biekart** spoke of the need for more civic-driven change rather than change brought about by non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations. He gave four reasons for this rethinking of the routine system of change: First, he explained that every CSO is unique, and that in many places throughout the world, western models of change are not appropriate. He offered examples of China and Brazil to illustrate his thinking. Mr. Biekart continued, saying that because CSOs are generally seen as positive and good, their activities beyond helping to create change can be missed, citing drug cartels and human traffickers as examples. His third reason is that relying on NGOs and CSOs cancels out the other, outside voices within the system, leaving many who seek to create change out of the loop. His final reason was that NGOs and CSOs are unprepared for the rapidly changing pace of collective action. There are new forms of virtual collective action that these organizations are not ready to adopt, according to Mr. Biekart. He concluded by calling for harnessing of “civic energy in all sectors” and for change that is not driven by development aid.

**Anna Golubovska-Onisimova** stated that her NGO was the first NGO in Ukraine, formed in 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet Union. It was founded by mothers concerned about children after the Chernobyl (Chornobyl) nuclear disaster. Now Ukraine is well known for having an active civil society, according to Ms. Golubovska-Onisimova. MAMA-

We should strive for legally binding outcomes from Rio+20.



86 has become a national NGO seeking to improve the environment, raise awareness, and implement pilot programs aimed at achieving access to safe drinking water, general sanitation, and the promotion of chemical safety. She said that her organization has had many triumphs in its work especially with the NGO campaign on environment in 2005 and had laws passed on state environmental strategy in 2010. Ukraine is a member of the Aarhus Convention and without this framework her NGO would be less effective at driving the change for this process. She noted that NGOs should strive for legally binding outcomes from Rio+20. Lastly, she spoke of her NGO's work in getting rid of pesticides, saying that an outcome is needed on pesticides in Rio +20 as well as a programme for international chemical management.

**Jeremy Wates** began his presentation by stating that public participation contributes to better decisions. He explained the importance of Principle 10 (P 10) of the Rio Declaration, noting that “international legal frameworks can support P10 rights”, but we need supportive legal and institutional frameworks. In the 19 years since the adoption of this principle, progress has been uneven, he said. In countries outside of ECE the most important development has been the Principle 10 Bali Guidelines, stated Mr. Wates.

He then noted that the Aarhus Convention is available for adoption by all countries but not one country has yet made a decision to do so. Most tangible progress has been made in Europe with 44 countries participating in the convention. He said it is important for the compliance committee to be part of the structure of the Convention and for NGOs to be actively involved in this process.

Mr. Wates went on to say that one of the main lessons that can be learned from the Aarhus Convention is the effectiveness of legally binding instruments. He stated that the results would only be partially successful if the documents will be non-binding. He noted that there are three options to universalise Principle 10.

- Accession to Aarhus by other countries including in the Arab region
- Other regional conventions, e.g. in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Global convention



Jeremy  
Wates



He noted that the danger of creating a weak document is that it will seem as though progress is being made, but in reality it will perpetuate stagnation. Mr. Wates asserted that far-reaching decisions must be adopted at Rio+20 to start negotiations and the leadership of major countries is essential for this to happen.

Respondent **Heiko Warnken** of Germany said he had heard a lot of similar thoughts about governance. He noted that participants at the Convention of Biological Diversity were shocked by the trade of rose wood to China from Madagascar. He agreed that partnerships were essential and that it was important for UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries to work with civil society, donor agencies and partner countries.

Voices from the audience brought new perspectives into the discussion. The panelists responded about how they were preparing for Rio+20. Ms. Ikeda from Brazil said that at the first meeting with civil society in Brazil, they asked the attendees what were the main challenges to addressing sustainable development. She noted that she was happy to see the healthy variety of grassroot volunteers and women. She highlighted the need for two-way discussions and noted that they were more than open to talk about Principle 10 and regional or global conventions.

Other issues that came up in the question-and-answer session included the point that the more civil society is divided, the less powerful it is as a group, which is a major problem. The audience also spoke of a gradual acceptance of civil society as part of the UN discussion but many improvements are still needed. Many noted that some of the strongest stakeholders are not interested in changing their behaviour and that civic engagement in the traditional sense may not be able to push fast enough the change needed in these players. One participant noted that government intervention may be needed and that even in countries where citizens have rights to obtain information and participate there are problems with implementation at the national level as there are strong forces against the proper adoption of these legal documents. Finally, the audience spoke about the need for governments preparing for Rio+20 to ensure that they prepare for harnessing the civic energy and engagement expected from this Summit.

*The rapporteurs for this Roundtable were Sean Southey and Faisal Yousaf.*



Maria  
Angelica  
Ikeda

Because civil society organizations are generally seen as positive and good, their activities beyond helping create change can be missed, citing drug cartels and human traffickers as examples.



## Roundtable Four:

# Sustainable Development Governance Issues from Local to Global: The Role of Citizen Participation

This roundtable was moderated by **Anne-Marie Chavanon** (Conference of INGOs at the Council of Europe), and panelists included **Thierno Kane** (Open Society Initiative for West Africa – OSIWA), **Konrad Otto-Zimmermann** (ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability), **Farah Cherif d’Ouezzan** (Thaqafat Association), **Geri Lau** (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – IFRC); and **John Matuszak** of the United States as respondent.

## Introductory Highlights

The Roundtable started with an introduction by the moderator, followed by short presentations by the panelists, then supplemented with short summaries by the moderator and observations by **John Matuszak**. Afterward, the Roundtable was opened for questions and comments from the audience. Several key issues were raised during these exchanges, among them the role of citizen participation in creating sustainable societies from the local to the global levels. Another very important aspect was the central position of education: on the one hand people need formal education to become responsive citizens and on the other hand, volunteering and participation provide a broad range of informal learning and non-formal educational opportunities to become competent, engaged and committed volunteers and citizens, especially when it comes to sustainable development.

During the question-and-answer-session, the key points raised included:

- The importance of young people’s participation and the need to have youth representatives at all levels of responsive citizenship as well as during Rio+20.
- Again, the importance of formal but especially of non-formal education in order to achieve a real sustainable development was emphasized.
- The need to take action – to live, practice and demonstrate sustainable lifestyles in order to make changes happen.

A major conclusion of the Roundtable was the importance of participation and volunteering as a means of non-formal education for sustainable development, especially for youth.

## Summary of Discussion

The Roundtable focused on the role of citizen participation in sustainable governance from local to global levels, analyzing how civil society, in partnership with other stakeholders, can contribute to sustainable development and thereby connect the dots from the local to the global.

**Thierno Kane** offered the case of Senegal as a practical example, where citizens and especially youth have tried to make their government listen. Since they didn’t succeed, they took to the streets, saying: “Enough is enough”. Mr. Kane then posed the question of what citizen participation really means: “Are we, as citizens, allowed to participate, or do we have to participate”. From his point of view, sustainable societies from the local to the global levels have to be open societies, where negotiation is possible and information is available. In representative democracies, elections are the main focus of participation.



Instead, he recommended participatory democracies based on solidarity, where people reclaim their power and really participate, he said. But it remains a problem explaining to the people that it is not only the national level that is relevant to their future, but also things that happen in other parts of the world. Here, education is needed in order to be prepared for that new interconnectedness. Another important point for him in connecting the local and the global is that NGOs need to have strong connections to the UN while at the same time remaining autonomous and independent. This strategy also requires some kind of NGO diplomacy. When NGOs join forces, they become aware of the ideas and the aims they share. At the end Mr. Kane highlighted the fact that educating youth about connecting the global and the local can be done through volunteerism, since volunteerism truly is about humanity.

**Konrad Otto-Zimmermann** brought examples from Germany, where there are many civil society organizations. Consequently, there are many opportunities to become politically active, since there are a lot of connections between politics and civil society, especially at the local level, e.g. in the city councils where civil society can voice its opinion on issues of the day. On the other hand, he stated that national governments are not very accessible. Therefore, it is very important to have national civil society organizations voicing civil society interests on that level. At the global level, it becomes even more challenging. The global level is usually out of reach, and furthermore, the issues that are discussed at the global level are international and not bound to national territories, he stated. And, most importantly, national governments cannot by themselves decide global issues like the global commons. Mr. Otto-Zimmermann concluded with the observation that there needs to be a change in the underlying structures of these systems if they do not respond properly to current global challenges.

**Farah Cherif d'Ouezzan** spoke about the Thaqafat Association and its mission to promote volunteerism and involvement of young people. To do so, it seeks to learn from the people while simultaneously encouraging and training youth to become volunteers. In order to do that, Thaqafat tries to make volunteering more structured in order to achieve real sustainable development and to create opportunities to act and to learn. Referring to the recent uprisings in North African region, she stated that “there is hope that we will learn from the lessons that if the people want something, they can reach it, at least in some regions”. Furthermore, she said that education is the key to preparing youth to build its communities in a sustainable manner.

**Geri Lau** described the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent as a member-based organization that connects people all around the world. Even though disasters are at the focal point of its activity, it also does prevention and at that point sustainable development comes to the fore. For Ms. Lau, communities are not just the goal, but also the starting point. People are at the centre of very strong movements and really need to be listened to. In this respect, capacity building in the communities is strongly needed, she said. This requires an enabling environment. In the end, she summarised that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent can serve as an example of how to foster local-to-global-learning: there is a need to make national governments aware that you come up with good ideas, services and structures backed by communities. In her view, volunteers need to be at the centre of development, rather than being just an add on.

A major conclusion of the Roundtable was the importance of participation and volunteering as a means of non-formal education for sustainable development, especially for youth.



Farah Cherif  
d'Ouezzan of  
Morocco



It was **John Matuszak**, summing up the main issues of this Roundtable, who stated that we live in interesting times with a lot of challenges and opportunities that make it crucial to think out of the box. He stressed that the 21st century needs to listen to the leadership of the local level and civil society: “We will be looking to you to actually do a great deal there and you need to tell us, as governments, what it is that we need to do to enable you to be able to achieve sustainable development in your communities, in your lives, in your organizations that you participate in, in the choices that you make every day.” It is civil society and consumers that need to hold the politicians and the bureaucrats accountable, invite them to their activities, and to call their attention to the global commons. With regard to Rio+20, he reaffirmed this view, telling civil society: “Don’t wait for governments to invite you to a meeting. Hold your own meeting and ask the people that are in charge in your country to come. Tell them what you want, don’t just ask them what they’re doing.”

### Question-and-Answer Period

In the question-and-answer session, a broad variety of issues were raised. One point that was addressed by several persons was the importance of young people and the need to have youth representatives at all levels, including Rio+20, in order to achieve real sustainable development. Another important aspect was the necessity of formal but especially non-formal education in order to achieve development that is sustainable and based on human rights, and values like solidarity and inclusiveness. Since formal education systems are not sufficient when it comes to sustainable development, we need non-formal educa-

“I heard an earthquake here today, and that earthquake came when I heard the words that people were saying for the first time. ‘We want’”. – NGO





Civil society in attendance for Roundtable Four.

tion, the audience noted. From that point of view, to take real action and to volunteer can offer broad opportunities for informal learning and non-formal education in the field of sustainable development. And, last but not least, the need to take real action was emphasized by several speakers – to live, practice and demonstrate sustainable lifestyles in order to make changes happen as soon as possible instead of being trapped by just talking: “I heard an earthquake here today, and that earthquake came when I heard the words that people were saying for the first time. ‘We want’”, said NGO Myra Jackson.

*The rapporteurs for this Roundtable were Urike Devey-Kanoglu and Nilab Alokuzay.*



## Conference Closing Session

In his remarks at the Closing Ceremony, **Kiyo Akasaka**, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, stated that he expects the delegates to depart from Bonn “enriched by the debates, discussions and exchanges that have inspired in each of us a deeper commitment to do our part to promote sustainable development.”

Building on these experiences through individual and collective volunteer efforts, he added, “is a goal that guides us going forward”.

“This Conference has provided participants with stimulating ideas, a wealth of information, and the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues, both here at the Maritim Conference Centre and in our wonderful host city of Bonn”, Mr. Akasaka said, urging civil society to refine and step up your campaigning and mobilization for action between now and the start of Rio+20.

“We have enjoyed the enthusiasm and passion that each one of you has brought to this forum. In particular, we congratulate all of the young people here for your active participation. Your voices have been heard and, I am sure, your views are reflected in the final document”, he said. “This Conference has offered us a unique opportunity to meet and speak with many of you. We enjoyed listening to the discussions during the Roundtables, workshops, and the special events in and around the Conference. There were passionate discussions on the role of civil society on sustainable development and volunteerism. It was the clamour of your enthusiastic voices in debates that made us stay for hours in packed rooms. You have also worked long and hard into the night on the Declaration that will be presented shortly”.



In her remarks on behalf of the Host Country, **Christiane Bögemann-Hagedorn**, Deputy Director-General, Civil Society, Economic Policy and Private Sector, of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), thanked UN DPI, UN Volunteers, the

Kiyo Akasaka, at podium, together with the volunteers at the Closing Ceremony – all dressed in special volunteers t-shirts.





Felix Dodds, right, presents the NGOs' Final Declaration to Bonn's Lord Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch.

NGO/DPI Executive Committee, the New York and Host Country members of the Planning Committee, and the City of Bonn for organizing the Conference.

“The motto of the conference, Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens, is a key topic if we are to build a better world, and the German Government shares that view”, said Ms. Bögemann-Hagedorn. “As we learned during 37 workshops, several roundtable discussions and not least through fruitful debates during the past three days, there are solutions to sustainable societies, and there are responsive citizens”.

The Host Country representative noted that the Conference title also links to Rio+20, where the active involvement of civil society will be crucial if the meeting is to produce ambitious and viable results.

“We will thus be glad to take up the concrete ideas raised at this conference and will hand your Final Declaration, via the German Permanent Mission to the UN, to the President of the UN General Assembly this fall”, she said.

Making reference to the sustainability and volunteerism aspects of Conference, Ms. Bögemann-Hagedorn said, “Co-sponsored by the Government of Germany, the General Assembly Resolution [on the International Year of Volunteerism] encouraged governments, voluntary organizations, civil society, the private sector, and United Nations organizations to celebrate volunteering as an expression of our common humanity and as a means of building mutual respect, understanding, trust, solidarity and reciprocity. The Resolution is also aimed at tapping the potential of civil society to make a real difference and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

“In Germany, too, thousands of people volunteer in the field of development policy. Today, many of them are presented here. They make a major contribution toward generating broad public support for development policy in Germany and toward giving it a

“We congratulate all of the young people here for your active participation. Your voices have been heard and, I am sure, your views are reflected in the final document”. – Kiyo Akasaka



chance to successfully help build a sustainable world. More than any other policy field, development policy requires the active involvement of society as a whole. Civil society organizations play an indispensable part as watchdogs, as advocates for disadvantaged people, as operators of practical projects in our partner countries, and in development education and public relations work. But above all, they are evidence of citizens' active involvement in development”.

Ms. Bögemann-Hagedorn said that in Germany many people join volunteer services and currently some 1,400 volunteers are active as development workers in the BMZ's partner countries. Additionally, more than 4,000 young people are taking part in the Ministry's development volunteers service “weltwärts” this year – this German play on words translates roughly as “world-wards”.

“By working in a partner organization, they learn about other countries and cultures and gather experience that motivates many of them to actively participate in development. This year, the German government is providing more than 600 million euros for civil society engagement. This is an increase of almost 10 percent over last year's levels, and this increase was made even though budgets are tight – and we will continue this trend. Our ambitious goal for the next few years is to double the number of German citizens who are active in development cooperation – from currently about 1 million people to 2 million. To that end, we want to set up, before the end of this year, a service point for civic engagement in development to which citizens can turn for advice – a multi-programme, one-stop shop, to encourage citizen involvement,” Ms. Bögemann-Hagedorn said.

She said that Rio+20 is a top priority for the German Government's development policy since it will set the course on vital issues at the development and environment nexus. The German Government, she noted, believes that the Conference will have to provide a major impetus towards enhanced implementation of the global development agenda.

“Germany is engaged in efforts to ensure that the Conference will achieve ambitious outcomes in all three areas of sustainable development (economic, ecological and social di-

Deutsche Welle Choir under the direction of Maja Braun performs a medley of German and non-German songs during the Closing Ceremony.





Kiyoo Akasaka addresses the Closing Ceremony.

mensions) and that it will help to enhance the various dimensions' mutual integration. The outcomes on green economy are to make an active contribution to poverty reduction, to economies' green modernization, and to new and better income opportunities (green and decent jobs)", she said.

"Active civil society involvement in the context of the Conference will be crucial if the meeting is to achieve ambitious outcomes. A transformation to a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication requires the involvement of all players - citizens, governments and the private sector. You, the participants in the present meeting, are helping to attain these goals through your ideas and suggestions. We want to encourage you to remain active in the preparation phase for Rio+20".



**Eden Mamut** of the Black Sea Universities Network said in his remarks that on the one hand there are visible environmental calamities and on the other there are experts who can correct those misfortunes but no one is consulting those specialists.

Mr. Mamut noted that throughout the centuries, scientists and other experts accumulated huge stockpiles of knowledge about the environment, including the processes and factors that are connected to the deterioration of the living conditions, the depletion of resources, and the degradation of biodiversity. This amassed knowledge allowed experts to define the strategic mix for implementing sustainable development concepts based on three main interrelated pillars:

- Continue improving efficiency in the use of resources;
- Re-engineer industrial, economic and social processes so they are consistent with the natural cycles;
- Educate the people so they have a fundamentally new understanding of welfare that shifts from opulence towards sufficiency.



“We will thus be glad to take up the concrete ideas raised at this conference and will hand your Final Declaration, via the German Permanent Mission to the UN, to the President of the UN General Assembly this fall”. – Christiane Bögemann-Hagedorn

Mr. Mamut said as an educator, he favors emphasizing the role of education and science in defining a new paradigm for bridging the efforts of the authorities, business community, scientists, educators and the NGOs for assuring the sustainability of the society at each scale.

“I do consider that the recent UN Academic Impact initiative could offer a possible new pathway for attracting the universities closer to the civil society by deploying large resources of knowledge and innovation. This is a global initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in actively supporting 10 universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, literacy, sustainability and conflict resolution.

“If we want a better world for us and future generations, we have to act with wisdom and intelligence by valuing the tremendous resources of knowledge and innovation from the universities”, Mr. Mamut said.

However, he continued, billions of dollars are currently being spent worldwide on implementing sustainable development programmes to treat separated or isolated aspects like those for improving efficiency of using resources. However, they do not take into consideration education for sufficiency, green economy programs, or their efficiencies.



The final press conference, from left, Felix Dodds, Stefanie Zeidler, Kiyo Akasaka and Flavia Pansieri.





Jeffery Huffines

Mr. Mamut urged a new definition of the role of civil society in governance for sustainable development, which would include transparency, responsibility, accountability, participation and responsiveness.

“It is obvious that there is a need for developing a fundamentally new paradigm for bridging the efforts of the authorities, business community, scientists, educators and NGOs for assuring the sustainability of society at each scale”, he said.

Discussing his Black Sea Universities Network, which is coordinating the UNAI Hub on sustainability, Mr. Mamut said its mission is “to facilitate the transfer of knowledge from the universities to the other partners in promoting sustainability. A versatile portal has been developed and might be accessed at [www.unai-sustainability.org](http://www.unai-sustainability.org). Individuals and institutions have the possibility to plug in and to participate to the live conferences and discussion forums, to register in the databases and to access the resources. A number of selected projects are monitored and offer the possibility of transferring best practices and accumulated experience”.

Mr. Mamut said his Network has a long tradition of partnering with NGOs and there are many foundation universities around the world. At almost each of these universities there are ties with several foundations or associations. “But the new paradigm is referring to a significant new type of partnership because education for sustainable development should be considered beyond the institutional framework with the involvement of the society as a whole and the NGOs as part of it. The Universities and the NGOs should join their efforts for a broader diffusion of the education on sustainable development and each party could contribute with its own values to this endeavor”, he said.

Mr. Mamut concluded: “The actions of the civil society might lead to better decisions in the society and even revolutions. In this context, the role of NGOs in good governance



also has to be reconsidered in order to enhance the efficiency of their contribution. At the same time, in such a new context, NGOs, more than ever, should demonstrate transparency, responsibility and accountability.

“So, what kind of world we want? If we want a better world for us and future generations we have to act with wisdom and intelligence by valuating the tremendous resources of knowledge and innovation from the universities.

“Allow me to end by reminding all of us that we are here because we are concerned about the future of our planet and what we are leaving to the future generations. In this respect, all our actions should be centered on our children and the young generations. We have to bring them with us in all our actions. We have to offer them the initiative, we have to support them, we have to encourage them, and let them be responsible for their future and to understand the values of volunteerism and commitment. They have to understand that living as a human being means to care about your life and about your future and to act for it. I have seen so many youngsters at this conference and am pleased to have learned from them. It is our duty to protect their joy and dreams for a better world for all of us”.



**Justin Davis Smith**, chief executive of Volunteering England, referencing the widespread riots in Great Britain last year, said just as social media mobilized rioters so too did social media organize the neighbourhoods to clean the mess the next day.

“A key challenge is to look at how, as NGOs, we can better embrace new technologies to ensure that we are at the centre of strong online, as well as physical, communities. We are at a crunch point where organizations risk being left behind as our citizens move onto new ways of communicating and organizing”, Mr. Smith said.

Flavia Pansieri  
of UNV  
delivering the  
Call to Action  
on behalf of  
volunteerism.





Christiane Bögemann-Hagedorn of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), centre, accepts the Final Declaration from Felix Dodds, right, and Kiyoo Akasaka.

He went on to say that NGOs must face up to the challenges of sustaining the strength of the voluntary spirit in societies and ask themselves if they are doing the right things.

“We must better embrace new technologies to ensure that we are at the centre of strong online, as well as physical, communities. We are at a crunch point where organizations risk being left behind as our citizens move onto new ways of communicating and organizing”, Mr. Smith said.

Citing a myriad austerity programmes instituted by governments around the world, Mr. Smith said that as a result citizens throughout the world are going to need to step up to the challenge of doing more for their community and for the environment.

“And I think there is plenty of evidence that individuals do step up to this challenge. Again, in reflecting on the riots a few weeks ago in my country, I am in awe of the heroism of those individuals who spoke out and urged calm in their communities and brought us back from the brink of further – and maybe inter-communal – violence. And in all our countries through our histories we can see the power of voluntary action in fomenting peace and understanding”, he said. “The challenge is to ensure that the potential this creates for informal, bottom-up, community-led action is realised. This must be seen as an opportunity to do things in a different way, a volunteer-led way, where appropriate”.

Mr. Smith pointed out that responsive citizens cannot exist without responsive governments, which on local, regional and national levels must be more responsive to volunteers and more open to working with them.

“It is obvious that there is a need for developing a fundamental new paradigm for bridging the efforts of the authorities, business community, scientists, educators and the NGOs for assuring the sustainability of society”. – Eden Mamut



“I’m sure many of the young people in the audience have experienced, at times, difficulties in getting government to listen to their concerns”, he said.

Mr. Smith declared: “The role of government is not only to be responsive; government has got to be active in creating the conditions in which people feel able and encouraged to volunteer. We have to acknowledge that our understanding of what governments can most usefully do is far from complete; we need more research on the ways in which people respond to social situations and to the mechanisms which government can deploy. But we know through our experience over the years that we need the practical support of governments in investing finances in the infrastructures and organizations which provide information and access to volunteering opportunities”.

He cautioned that volunteers should not replace the state but rather complement state services.

“My double challenge to the government leaders here today is to leave this Conference with, first, a renewed willingness to involve volunteers and take a risk on new ways of working and, second, to explore how you can provide practical support – and that often means money – in support of NGOs and their involvement of volunteers”, Mr. Smith said.

Corporations also have a role to play in the world of volunteerism, he continued, noting workplace volunteering programmes, where employers support their staff to volunteer, by offering time-off to get involved in the community. This has become commonplace throughout much of the business world and is redefining relations between staff, employers and the local community, he said.

NGOs also have a responsibility to question themselves if they are doing the right thing, Mr. Smith said.

“We need to analyse how we involve our own volunteers – young and old – and ask ourselves whether we do the most to encourage their decision-making and leadership in our organizations.



Felix Dodds, at the podium, discusses the adoption of the Final Declaration. At the dais are Eden Mamut, Christiane Bögemann-Hagedorn, Kiyoko Akasaka, Flavia Pansieri and Justin Davis Smith.





Eden Mamut

“We need to make the best use of resources and look for opportunities to collaborate and work together to make scarce public resources go further.

“But this is our time. In this the International Year of the Volunteer+10 and the European Year of Volunteering, we have a glorious opportunity to showcase to the world why volunteering matters and what more can be done – by government, business and NGOs to unleash its extraordinary power”.



Presenting the Call to Action on behalf of volunteerism, **Flavia Pansieri**, Executive Coordinator, UN Volunteers, first determined that almost all of the attendees at the Conference were in fact volunteers. Ms. Pansieri said: “So all of us are connected by our interests in sustainable development, the environment, to reducing poverty, to volunteers, to responsive citizens, to people. And volunteers are people who stand up – like you just did and like you do every day – who stand up, step forward and make themselves counted. So volunteering is part of the work of most of our organizations. You can be professionals and volunteer at the same time. And we are here because we think we need to do something about the state of the world”.

Ms. Pansieri drew an example of volunteerism from the firefighters, who on 11 September 2001, did not run away from, but rather ran into the burning World Trade Centre in New York City to make a difference – many of them losing their lives in the service of people they didn’t even know. “It’s a mindset, a way of life, and one we all share”, she said.

Ms. Pansieri asked: “I think you would all agree that there are not enough people together in this room alone to create sustainable societies across the entire world. How many more people do we need? Many, many millions. So how do we engage them?”

“We need to go out there to inspire many more people and encourage them to understand what sustainable societies are all about, how they can become responsive citizens,



“We must better embrace new technologies to ensure that we are at the centre of strong online, as well as physical, communities”. – Justin Davis Smith

how they can volunteer, become activists, make change and implement sustainable development.

“So to speak with the Conference tagline, we need to commit, encourage and volunteer. We need to get out there, and connect the dots”.

According to Ms. Pansieri, development isn't about money, or about just building infrastructure or boosting employment. She said it's about “inclusiveness, equity, connecting the economy and the ecology, and connecting people with the planet. It's about connecting the dots”.

Ms. Pansieri encouraged civil society to stop seeing sustainable development as a parallel track to economic or social development. “It should be the only track”, she said.

She indicated that there are three pillars of sustainable development: green economics, environmental preservation and social causes. “Even Ban Ki-moon during Davos this year said that sustainable development is about a revolution – a revolution in our lifestyles, politics, societies as well as our economics. We need a revolution to energize governments, change mindsets”, she said.

Ultimately, Ms. Pansieri said volunteers are the means to move the sustainable development agenda forward.

“Where do you see volunteers? Take an African village with a water pump; that pump is being managed by a local volunteer committee, I am sure the fair trade towns were started by and still inspired by volunteers. And what about the energy policy change and closing down of nuclear power plants in Germany, if it wasn't for the tens of thousands of people going onto the streets, activists, volunteering their time for a common cause. People freely giving their time for the benefit of others from commitment to create change. As Vandana Shiva said, ‘Volunteerism is freedom’. This is freedom when we commit, encourage and volunteer for sustainable societies”.



In her Call to Action on behalf of sustainable development, **H. Elizabeth Thompson**, Executive Coordinator of Rio+20, said the NGOs at the Conference have already committed and volunteered, and are prepared to encourage others to join the campaign.

“In the last few days your efforts have led you to a Declaration, which seeks to capture and address some of the critical issues facing our planet; the problems with which policymakers and people everywhere must contend. As we approach Rio, we must persuade governments and communities of the necessity of re-engaging and recommitting to integrating sustainable development planning into the core of national policy, our way of life, assessing the gaps in the development agenda, and finding the finances and technology to deliver answers to the issues – old, new, emerging and re-emerging, which prevent us from attaining the sustainable development of the world's people without reckless consumption of the planet's natural resources”, Ms. Thompson said.



Citizens of the world, who have solved other difficult problems, must now turn their attention to solving the challenges of development, she said.

“If we do not, people all over our planet will continue to suffer and live in poverty. We must change the situation in which the top billion of the world’s people enjoy unbridled and extravagant consumption while the bottom billion eke out a living earning less than US \$1 day, with almost half the world’s population existing on US \$2 a day, 5 million a year dying of hunger and malnutrition, the number of environmental refugees escalating, increasing degradation and depletion of our natural resources and numerous factors resulting in limited and unsustainable economic growth”, Ms. Thompson said.

She said that production, access and affordability of elements necessary to survival, quality of life and development including energy, water and food are increasingly becoming out of reach for significant numbers of people. She listed among the challenges to development: climate change impacts, provision of education and health care, particularly for women and girls, pollution and over fishing of our seas and oceans, loss of biodiversity, urbanization resulting in crowding, the ad hoc development of cities as well as other problems.

As for civil society’s role on the road to Rio, Ms. Thompson said: “The NGOs gathered in Bonn today are working at the national, regional and international levels, where you play special roles in working toward sustainable societies. Some of you are deeply involved in lobbying governments and leading campaigns and initiatives that provide information and increased public awareness and education about sustainability. I thank you for your work so far. You are the watchdogs who help to ensure action and accountability. You are therefore imminently well placed to drive sustainability from the bottom up and influence both politicians and populations.

“I urge you to use our potential for global advocacy to help make Rio+20 the success that is needed by educating citizens, helping to shape policy, influencing values and behaviour, catalyzing change and maximizing this global opportunity to transition to a green economy, eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development”.



Justin Davis Smith

“We need to go out there to inspire many more people and encourage them to understand what sustainable societies are all about, how they can become responsive citizens”. - Flavia Pansieri



“I urge you to use our potential for global advocacy to help make Rio+20 the success that is needed by educating citizens, helping to shape policy, influencing values and behaviour”. – H. Elizabeth Thompson

She urged NGOs that on the road to Rio, they must mobilize, lobby, sensitise, educate, monitor and encourage implementation and change.

“Sustainable development is a strategic approach to economic growth in an era of scarce resources, fast-growing populations, and fast-approaching tipping points in our climate and eco-systems. Sustainable development is good for people, good for business, and good for the planet. That is why the Rio+20 Conference next June is so important”, Ms. Thompson said.

“The Conference represents an historic opportunity. It can serve to help secure new innovative and strategic approaches for creating a more equitable world. We need to build bridges and strengthen engagement between the key actors, namely governments, civil society and the private sector, as well as to connect the dots between the different agendas for economic growth, social development and the ecosystem that is the earth. In framing the agenda for sustainable development, the emphasis placed on national programme delivery should equate with that given to the negotiation process and careful focused attention should be paid to the architecture for delivery and implementation. In this regard, you will need to strengthen your work amongst international financial institutions, academia, governments and grassroots organizations”.

Referring to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s declaration that sustainable development is the top priority of his second term in office and that he is committed to using all the resources at his disposal to attain that goal, Ms. Thompson said: “You and I, all of us, should echo the SG’s commitment in our words, work, actions and behaviour. It is only in so doing that we can secure sustainable societies and futures for every city, country, and citizen. Let us make this our priority as we journey to and from Rio”.



In his closing remarks, which also marked his stepping down as Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, **Jeffery Huffines**, ex officio member of the Planning Committee, recalled the traditional involvement of NGOs in the process.

“Every year it is civil society that decides upon the conference theme and chooses the conference chair through a nomination process conducted by the NGO/DPI Executive Committee. It is NGO representatives who volunteer their time and energy to develop the conference programme and modalities in partnership with UN DPI in New York and the NGO Focal Group in the Host Country. It is NGOs who write and ratify the Conference Declaration and Plan of Action”, Mr. Huffines said.

He said the Conference, which is organized for NGOs by NGOs in partnership with DPI, offers an “unparalleled opportunity for civil society to consider UN programmes and initiatives in unique and novel ways”.

“Since taking the Conference on the road, this premier UN civil society event has served to extend and deepen NGO regional partnerships with the United Nations, while delivering



concrete conference outcomes designed exclusively by the NGO community to provide significant civil society inputs into ongoing UN deliberations and plans of action targeted by the conference planners,” he said.

Mr. Huffines called the Final Declaration an “outstanding achievement” and an “invaluable advocacy tool” for NGOs in enhancing Rio+20 and volunteerism.

“It is also a valuable tool to link the twin themes of sustainable development and volunteerism to other UN campaigns such as the International Day of Peace on 21 September dedicated to a ‘culture of peace’ that is defined as a ‘set of values, attitudes, traditions and modes of behaviour and ways of life based on, among others, efforts to meet the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations’. This NGO Declaration will be given further weight when the German Government formally submits it as an official document of the General Assembly as Member-States finalise the Zero Draft Document for Rio+20 to be released on 1 November, and the General Assembly Review in December to mark the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers”, he continued.

After thanking the organizing partners, Conference Chair, the NGO Focal Group Coordinator, and DPI/NGO Relations, Mr. Huffines informed the participants of the creation of Facebook page called “64th NGO Conference Bonn”, located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/64NGO/>, for networking and creating partnerships to advocate the proposals contained in the Final Declaration.

“To conclude, I would like to thank the NGO/DPI community for the honor of serving as Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee for the past four years. I look forward to continuing to support the work of the Executive Committee as an ex-officio member under the leadership of our newly elected Chair, Dr. Chuck Hitchcock, who represents Peace Action International at the United Nations”, he said. “In my own capacity as UN representative of CIVICUS, I look forward to joining forces with each one of you to realize the goals of Rio+20 and IYV+10. In the spirit of the Deutsche Welle Choir, let’s dance with a song in our hearts to achieve the goal of creating sustainable societies comprised of engaged and enlightened citizens”.



Assessing the achievements of the Conference, **Felix Dodds**, Conference Chair, said that in just three days the participants and the Final Declaration reached levels that he did not expect.

“We need every country to take as active a role as Germany is doing in the preparation for Rio+20. I ask you to go back and engage your government in a dialogue on what can be achieved”, he said.

Mr. Dodds suggested that innovations introduced at the Conference should be considered for future UN DPI/NGO events:

“I would like to thank the NGO/DPI Community for the honour of serving as Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee for the past four years”. – Jeffery Huffines



“The future is not a gift. It is an achievement. We have an opportunity to create a sustainable planet”. – Felix Dodds

- Including expert respondents in the Roundtables
- Organizing capacity building workshops
- Scheduling youth sessions
- Preparing regional meetings
- Designating a UN Security/NGO Party

“All were great additions to making the Conference a success. The exchange with government representatives was a great success and government officials are taking back ideas to frame their thinking on 2012. I hope that the German Chancellor will be the first Head of State to agree to go to Rio+20”, Mr. Dodds said. “For the UN family as a whole, I would like to underline that the Conference, which has set the agenda for NGOs, for civil society for 2012, was organized by UN DPI and supported by UNV. UN DPI deserves a lot of credit for that leadership role that they showed that enabled us to have the conversation we needed to have”.

As for the Final Declaration, Mr. Dodds said it has “strong words and requests”. “We do need a strong regulative framework for our business community to ensure that our planet is looked after. We need responsive citizens that are engaging for the future. There is no Planet B or Plan B and this is the only planet we know that has chocolate that might not exist with the weather changing due to climate change. The future is not a gift, it is an achievement. We have an opportunity to create a sustainable planet”, he said.

“The environment movement is a civil society volunteer movement at its heart. Volunteerism has been one of the driving forces behind the birth of the modern environment movement. The success of environmental activism in conveying the importance of a healthy environment for both development objectives and overall well-being of local communities has progressively contributed to affirm a new way of looking at our relationship with the planet.

“Flavia Pansieri quoted the Secretary-General calling for a revolution. It reminded me of a Bobby Kennedy quote from a different time and a different issue but which seems appropriate today. He said:

‘A revolution is coming, a revolution which will be peaceful if we are wise enough;

‘Compassionate if we care enough; successful if we are fortunate enough.

‘But a revolution is coming whether we will it or not.

‘We can affect its character; we cannot alter its inevitability’.

“This world we will create will be based on sustainable societies and responsive citizens”.





# Declaration of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference: Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens

## Chair's Text

### Introduction

The participants of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, assembled from 3-5 September 2011 in Bonn, Germany, seat of UN organizations and conventions working for sustainable development worldwide and home to an interdisciplinary cluster of NGOs and institutions working in the fields of volunteerism, environment and development;

*Noting* that the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference is a major stakeholder event aimed at contributing to the two volunteer-focused sessions of the UN General Assembly scheduled to take place on 5 December 2011 in New York to mark the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (“IYV+10”);

*Further noting* that the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference also aims to inform the preparatory process towards the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio+20”) in Rio de Janeiro, 4-6 June 2012;

*Bearing in mind* the objective of the Earth Summit (“Rio+20”), as mandated in the UN General Assembly Resolution A/64/236, to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges that include the themes of green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development and the institutional framework for sustainable development;

*Mindful* of the failure of States to subsequently address the urgency conveyed in the opening paragraph of Agenda 21: “Humanity stands at a defining moment in history. We are confronted with perpetuation of disparities between nations, and a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystem on which we depend for our well being”; (Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992)

*Noting* the need to reaffirm and renew Agenda 21, which, in section 3.7, stresses that “sustainable development must be achieved at every level of society .... Governments, in cooperation with appropriate international and non-governmental organizations, should support a community-driven approach to sustainability”;

*Recognizing* that the strength of sustainable development is its inherent nature to interlink problems and solutions across a wide spectrum of “issue silos”;

*Guided* by the outcome documents of the major global summits of the 1980s and the 1990s, Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development’s Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (“JPOI”), and the Cochabamba Peoples’ Agreement;

*Recalling* that the Earth Charter, together with the Culture of Peace, can play a vital role in helping to inspire renewed political commitment expected for Rio+20 and to guide the transition to a sustainable, just and peaceful society with respect and care for the entire community of life;

*Recalling* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular Principle 10, on the need to ensure participation of all concerned citizens in environmental





decision-making as well as access to environmental information and environmental justice and Principles 20-22 on the need to promote participation of women, youth, and indigenous peoples;

*Reaffirming* the importance of attaining the goals set in the International Conference on Population and Development (“ICPD”), the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the UN Millennium Development Goals (“MDGs”);

*Further guided* by General Assembly Resolution 63/153 of 18 December 2008 inviting Governments and other stakeholders to carry out activities focused on marking the IYV+10;

*Bearing in mind* that the General Assembly, in op. para. 16 of A/RES/63/153, “requests the UN Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the tenth anniversary of the International Year under the item entitled “Social development”, and to be pursued by the United Nations Volunteer program, its partners and the other relevant parts of the United Nations system;

*Aware* of the need for a follow-up to the 2011 IYV+10 and noting that the momentum created has contributed to increase the vibrancy of volunteerism nationally, regionally and globally with the involvement of more governments, more civil society organizations, more private sector partners, and more people from a broader cross-section of societies;

## General Statements

*Recognizing* that human beings are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature;

*Alarmed* at the increasing loss of biodiversity; the rate of desertification, deforestation, especially in the tropics and forest degradation globally; the collapse of fishery resources, and the aggravated effects resulting from global warming;

*Recognizing* that biodiversity and linguistic diversity are inseparable and alarmed at the loss of traditional knowledge caused by the loss of linguistic diversity;

*Concerned* about climate change and its effects, including exacerbating biodiversity loss as well as ocean acidification and the collapse of glaciers, ice caps and polar ice shelves;

*Recognizing* that billions of people remain in poverty and that poverty often has a female face;

*Recognizing* as well the lack of consistent and sustainable sources of energy for both the developed and the developing world, unsustainable agriculture, and rises in food prices;

*Taking note* of the inter-relationships among the environmental challenges, climate change, food crisis and monetary and financial instability, aggravated by the unprecedented concentration of resources and flagrant inequities among people;

*Noting* that solutions based on de-regulated markets have accentuated the problems and have brought adverse consequences to humanity; and that commitments on financing for development have not been fulfilled;

*Also recognizing* that the current monetary, financial, commercial and economic system, along with unequal power relations, are the main drivers for the active process of environmental, moral and spiritual impoverishment;

*Recognizing* that peace, the promotion of the Culture of Peace, and respect for human rights are constitutive elements for sustainable development and that the large expenditures being allocated to warfare and military activities, including research, in particular for the use of nuclear weapons, represent a serious threat to the planet affecting the lives of people everywhere, and pose unacceptable risks, particularly storage of nuclear waste





and uranium mining on the sacred lands of indigenous peoples, and potential nuclear reactor damage posed by natural and human-made hazards;

*Calling upon* Member States of the UN and all stakeholders to take immediate action in addressing the alarming crisis and famine in the Horn of Africa;

*Acknowledging* that sustainable development as a means to ensure human well-being requires that interrelationships between population, resources, the environment and development should be fully understood, recognized, appropriately managed and brought into harmonious, dynamic balance, States should promote appropriate policies, including population-related policies including linguistic policies, to meet the needs of current and future generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;

*Recognizing* that the regime of internationally agreed development goals is the foundation for sustainable development, and that the business-as-usual practices and policies should not be accepted;

*Highlighting* the need for youth empowerment through formal and non-formal education in sustainable development, as well as through participation at all levels and at all stages of decision-making processes;

*Acknowledging* the important role of formal, non-formal, informal and vocational learning and life-long education for sustainable development;

*Acknowledging* synergies and inter-relationships between gender equality and sustainable development, the importance of girls' and women's participation in decision-making in sustainable development processes and governance at all levels, and their role as "agents of change"; and the need to ensure their full contribution to building green economies and sustainable societies;

*Committed* to promoting respect for cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity and fostering solidarity and reciprocity among peoples, including indigenous peoples and nations and an alliance and partnership among civilizations;

*Aware* of the important role the media and modern means of communication play for raising awareness and facilitating collaboration, promoting sustainable behaviour and developing south-south news distribution mechanisms;

*Recognizing* that people and nature are interdependent and that the "global commons" – the air and oceans, for examples – are resources on which we all rely, we encourage communities, governments and other stakeholders to manage and share the responsibility of making decisions on safeguarding and increasing the fruits of nature and society that form the foundation of a green economy;

*Recognizing* that biodiversity and linguistic diversity are inseparable, connected and interdependent, and alarmed at the increasing loss of linguistic diversity causing loss of traditional knowledge, which is essential for maintaining biodiversity;

*Recognizing* that the implementation of the sustainable development agenda requires, besides strong political actions and political leadership, the everyday, voluntary actions of millions of people and civil society organizations across the globe;

*Recognizing* and enhancing the impact of volunteering for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, and for the development of sustainable livelihoods, keeping in mind the long history of volunteer engagement in environmental issues, it will be important to acknowledge that the role of citizen engagement and volunteer action will become even more significant in assuring an environmentally sustainable future and a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, particularly as we approach Rio+20;





*Recognizing* the role of volunteerism to achieve sustainable societies by fostering social inclusion and as a means to involve and benefit all segments of society, including women, children, young people, older persons, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants, and those excluded and vulnerable due to social, linguistic or economic reasons;

*Recognizing*, that volunteerism, as a type of non-formal education, offers opportunities for young people to take responsibility for their livelihoods, acquire skills and capacities and act as positive role models for other youth;

*Reaffirming* that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at mobilizing communities to achieve the MDGs and, inter alia, such areas as poverty eradication, community-centered sustainable development, health, including sexual and reproductive health, disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery management and peacekeeping;

*Recognizing* that volunteerism, in taking centre stage for inspiring the global development dialogue, should lead the way for the efforts of all stakeholders to develop a shared vision of partnership for the growth of the global commons in areas such as education, both at the micro-level in families and at the national level, youth activism through the arts and through online journalism, and through innovative, continuing methods of self-organization and collective action, which should be documented and promoted by appropriate global information systems;

*Highlighting* the crucial contribution of volunteering in post-conflict contexts to construct sustainable societies by rebuilding institutions, local capacity, and social cohesion through various forms of volunteering;

The NGOs here present in Bonn, Germany, on 5 September 2011, declare the following on the matters of a green economy in the context of poverty eradication, sustainable lifestyles, education and life-long learning for sustainable development, civic engagement in sustainable development governance and volunteerism:

## **RIO+20 and Civic Engagement**

We call on governments to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals set out below;

We encourage all stakeholders to become involved in Rio+20 and to make their own commitments to sustainable development;

We call on governments to:

- come to Rio+20 represented by Heads of State or Government, with concrete commitments to take individual and collective actions towards sustainable development and address gaps and emerging issues, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

- produce a politically-binding outcome document that recommit governments to achieve sustainable development;

generate an appendix to the outcome document containing country commitments to form the foundation of a global registry of sustainability actions and major stakeholder commitments, which include robust monitoring and reporting provisions;

We call for the preparation and implementation of green economy roadmaps that consider and address the commonly agreed Rio Principles, for the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals in critical areas, and for the implementation of governance reforms to foster the transition to a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, by fostering civic engagement and volunteerism and for improving the institutional framework for sustainable development.





We call for replacement of the current inefficient, unsustainable and inequitable economic, monetary, financial and commercial models with policies that advance rather than detract from sustainable development goals and that build rather than deplete the stocks of natural, human, built and social capital on which human well-being ultimately depends. We propose that where the current economy aids inequity, destruction and greed, it should be replaced by an economy that cares for the human-earth community.

We call for the establishment of the proposed Financial Transaction Tax to help build social protection systems in the most vulnerable countries, the Least Developed Countries (“LDCs”), and contribute to sustainable climate adaptation, strengthen civil society worldwide and support more sustainable and equitable economies.

We call for improved access to information technology, especially for young people, to facilitate growth towards healthy communities in every sense – civic engagement, health, gender, education, food security and social stability.

We call upon the UN General Assembly to proclaim 21 December each year as International Low-Carbon Lifestyle Day, to be a day of reflection to live more simply and sustainably by recognizing the food-energy-water nexus, and that the Secretary-General invite UN Member States, intergovernmental bodies, agencies and programmes of the UN system, international institutions, cities, civil society and interested individuals and volunteers to mark the day with appropriate low-carbon events worldwide.

We hereby call upon governments to work in partnership with civil society, the private sector and international institutions to fulfill the commitments set forth in this declaration before and at Rio+20.

## **Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction**

We are concerned that the current economic model, which promotes unsustainable consumption and production patterns, facilitates a grossly inequitable trading system, fails to eradicate poverty, assists exploitation of natural resources to the verge of extinction and total depletion, and has induced multiple crises on Earth, needs to be replaced by sustainable economies in community, local, national, regional and international spheres.

We are concerned that the prevailing economic development model built on policies such as privatization, export-led development, structural adjustment, deregulation, substitution of technology for nature, and driven by the goal of GDP growth suffers from a series of market and institutional failures that render it inefficient, unsustainable, inequitable, and an incorrect vehicle for advancing sustainable development goals.

We acknowledge the need to establish a new way to measure the progress towards a sustainable development with gender-specific and other indicators, including, but not limited to, civic engagement, integrating them with those of sustainable development, rather than only relying solely on a country’s GDP.

We call on governments and other stakeholders to make systematic use of population data and projections to anticipate and plan for population dynamics and address associated challenges in a pro-active manner. Recognizing human rights and freedoms, governments should enlarge individual choices and opportunities by ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning, empowerment of women, and investment in education, particularly of disadvantaged children and youth, and girls and young women.

We call on the full and effective implementation of Agenda 21, the MDGs, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the ICPD to ensure young peoples’ rights to education, employment





and health, emphasizing sexual and reproductive health, including access to contraceptives, and universal access to HIV prevention and treatment, through the understanding of linkages between social, environmental and population dimensions.

We call on governments to start a debate that recognizes the choices we have to make about human population as we consider the limits of the carrying capacity of the planet and the need to enable fair and equitable use of available resources and also leave space for wildlife and wilderness.

We are aware that the UNDP Human Development Index piloted for the first time social indicators such as education, gender equality and life expectancy to measure development, and that when governments implement the Universal Social Protection Floor Initiative there will be a significant improvement of human well-being.

We recognize further that the market and institutional failures take the form of prices that do not reflect their true environmental and social costs, underinvestment in natural, human, built and social capital, harmful and perverse subsidies, restricted access to information about production technologies and their impacts, lack of democratic economic governance, increasing unemployment and inadequate indicators of progress.

We are convinced that green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should be economic systems that foster citizen participation; require social justice and equity and gender equality; protection of ecosystems; creation of economic sufficiency, and that aims for the core idea that green economies enhance sustainable development and prosperity of all nations; ensure the wellbeing of all people; respect the rights, cultures, languages and wisdom of indigenous peoples and local communities; safeguard animal welfare and conserve biodiversity for future generations, while stressing that green economy does not replace sustainable development.

We acknowledge that a just transition to green economies within sustainable societies is in the context of sustainable development, elimination of extremes of wealth and poverty, climate justice, and equitable investment in people's education, health, and decent work and right livelihoods.

We acknowledge also that green economies within sustainable societies should also ensure gender equality, democracy, improve human well-being, reduce environmental risks, and ensure that jobs and social benefits are distributed equitably among all peoples;

Considering that sustainable economies should be based on far-sighted policy-making, we need pathways to the green economies, low carbon development and new monetary policies with clear and binding targets and timetables.

For these reasons we call upon governments to:

- ensure extraction of materials only in a sustainable way and on a sufficiency basis, and that these resources are utilized efficiently;

- ensure the reuse of waste as raw material for new products to maximise the lifecycle and take action through providing the right incentives for research and development;

- phase out fossil fuel subsidies, setting up environmentally and socially friendly fiscal incentives, and operationalising wide-ranging innovative sources of finance, such as the proposed Financial Transaction Tax ("FTT");

- facilitate the transition to an ecologically-based, resilient, fair, fully inclusive and humane agriculture, and the establishment of a participatory mechanism to oversee the transition. The world's millions of smallholder farmers, especially women, need to be politically empowered and given access to appropriate resources, and fair markets;





implement a just transition to sustainable economies as fast as possible through an unprecedented level of cooperation and policy coherence at the local, state, national and international levels, for South-South and triangular cooperation, by the sharing of green technologies and know-how, by restructuring regulatory, taxation, and expenditure policies, and by establishing democratic oversight of economic policy decision making;

create green jobs and to “green” existing jobs with a special focus on youth, women and disadvantaged groups;

replace or supplement GDP and other traditional economic metrics with broader indicators;

institute sustainable procurement standards, including ones encouraging the use of recycled products and renewable energy;

strengthen local economies and avoid the destruction of forests and biodiversity through the support to independent certification systems, based on robust principles, applied through transparent and balanced participatory processes, ensuring the rights and interests of indigenous peoples and local communities, and with independent, on-the-ground, monitoring, reporting and verification. Governments and the private sector should pledge concrete and systematic support and promotion of such multi-stakeholder managed forest certification systems, in all parts of the world, with particular emphasis on the tropical rainforests;

promote mutual supportiveness between trade and sustainable development and environmentally-friendly fair trade products;

regulate the economy to put an end to speculation on food and global commons;

promote local alternative economies, such as time banks, complementary monetary systems, and to rethink the monetary system to be based on carbon standard.

## **Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development**

We call for the establishment of a global sustainable development coordinating mechanism and parallel institutions at the national level, empowered to pursue system-wide policy coherence for the Bretton Woods and UN institutions to advance sustainable development principles, pathways, and policies in a coordinated manner. Such a mechanism must involve interactive multi-stakeholder forums and regular meetings of Heads of State and Government to assess developments and provide leadership in economic, social and ecological issues, to lead and oversee the global sustainable production and consumption governance process, and to help secure consistency and coherence in the policy goals of all the major international organizations.

We call for the establishment or reform of Subcommittees on Sustainable Consumption and Production to be operated within National Councils for Sustainable Development, with a mandate to advise all national agencies working on sustainable consumption and production and national representatives on the Intergovernmental Sustainable Consumption and Production Mechanisms. Sufficiently resourced National Councils on Sustainable Development should be in place to drive the transition to green economies and develop a national sustainable green economy roadmap for each Member State of the UN by 2017.

We call for the strengthening of national and international environmental laws, the establishment of an International Environmental Court and the strengthening of domestic judiciaries to deal with environmental disputes.

We call for the establishment of Ombudspersons for Future Generations at global, national and local levels, who will advocate for sustainable development as envisaged and defined





by the Brundtland Commission: “to enhance the well-being and prospects of present and future generations to meet their needs”, serve as an auditor at the heart of governments and deal with citizens complaints.

We call for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to create a framework convention on corporate environmental and social responsibility (“CSR”) for the accountability of corporate investments for all companies listed on stock exchanges worldwide and take into account the ISO 26000 standard on corporate accountability.

We move for the adoption of an intergovernmental mechanism or instrument to assess the environmental, health and socio-economic impacts of new and emerging technologies, in line with the precautionary principle. We call for the outright ban on technologies that put the planet at grave risk.

We call for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to create a framework convention on international sustainability impact assessment, requiring the assessment of the sustainability implications for certain projects, plans, programs, policies and legislative instruments.

We call on the Rio+20 Conference to launch negotiations for the establishment of an international convention on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration that deals with access to information, public participation and environmental justice.

We further call on the Rio+20 Conference to encourage the development of regional conventions on Principle 10, to invite interested States to accede to the Aarhus Convention and to mandate UNEP to develop a robust programme to implement the 2010 Bali Guidelines on Principle 10.

We call for strengthening existing UNEP bodies and upgrading UNEP to the status of a high-level body in the UN system.

We call for the widespread ratification and effective implementation of all multilateral environmental agreements.

We call on national governments to ratify and effectively implement the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention, the only global environmental treaty that has not yet entered into force.

We call on the UN to mainstream sustainable development into the “Delivering As One” process.

We call upon governments to ensure that Free Prior Informed Consent (“FPIC”) is implemented with regard to development decisions, and other decisions such as REDD+, that impact indigenous peoples, indigenous groups and tribal and local communities.

We call on corporations to engage youth to make sustainable development initiatives a key part of their work, taking local communities into consideration.

We call upon all stakeholders for openness to new ways to volunteer by connecting and engaging people through internet and other new technologies.

We recommend that collaborative strategies between communities and the private sector through CSR programmes, such as employee volunteering, enhance existing volunteer opportunities to contribute to sustainable peace and development worldwide.

We recommend the incorporation of volunteerism, citizen engagement and volunteers in all global, national and local plans and priorities for peace, sustainable development and human well-being to commit to the creation of an enabling environment in which citizen engagement and voluntary action can flourish.





We recommend promotion of youth volunteering strategies that engage young people as agents for sustainable development and peace.

We recommend the documentation and exchange of best practices on the role of volunteers, particularly at the community level, in peace, sustainable development and human well-being efforts, including at each stage of disaster management — prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery;

We recommend the creation of an academy of Olympics Volunteers to be facilitated by the past directors of Olympic Volunteer programmes in Host Cities of the Olympic Games, with the close cooperation of interested NGOs and members of the International Olympic Committee family, and that volunteerism be officially recognized as the fourth pillar of the Olympic Movement, along with sports, culture and the environment;

We call upon:

*Governments* to recognize the power, economic and social value of volunteerism to achieve national development goals and well-being, and to provide a supportive environment for sustaining volunteerism with resources and support for infrastructure, as well as recognition of the values of civic participation;

*The Private Sector* to actively engage in employee volunteering and partnerships in enhancing capacities of volunteers involving organizations for achieving sustainable peace and development;

*The Media* to communicate to the public the value of volunteerism and join as a stakeholder in promoting a supportive environment for community engagement and volunteerism;

*Civil Society* to mainstream volunteerism and civic engagement strategies into sustainable peace and development programming;

*Educational Institutions and Academia* to integrate volunteerism and an understanding of civil society into curricula and similar structures to promote a deeper and more universal understanding of civic service and volunteering;

*The Research Community* to carry out more research and studies on, but not limited to, the value and impact of volunteerism on development and the role of volunteering in crisis prevention and response, and to develop new indicators of progress that incorporate citizen engagement, voluntary action and human well-being;

*Faith Traditions* to affirm volunteering for peace and development as an appropriate response to the spiritual call to service and human well-being;

*Volunteerism Involving Organizations* to ensure the effectiveness and accountability of volunteerism through sound governance, development of capacity to manage volunteers, and for monitoring and evaluation of impact;

*All Stakeholders* to call for a World Volunteer Coalition to provide a platform for promotion, knowledge sharing, capacity development, and collective actions on volunteerism;

*Governments, the United Nations system and other stakeholders* to renew efforts to implementing General Assembly Resolution A/RES/56/38 and subsequent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on measures to support volunteerism and look forward to further actions by the UNGA to commemorate IYV+10 and to continue to call for global recognition, support, and advocacy for volunteerism for sustainable peace and development;





We call on governments and stakeholders to adopt a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development and human well-being through a gender sensitive community-centered approach that utilizes the significant role, contributions and value of volunteers to address sustainable development, livelihoods, fair trade, food insecurity, energy, forestry, water, health, HIV/AIDS, disasters and other issues;

We call on the actors of the “Arab Spring” to establish their own NGOs quickly, and to apply for association with the UN Department of Public Information, so as to communicate with the UN, and to disseminate information about the UN to their constituents and other NGOs, thus compensating as soon as possible for wasted years under dictatorships with denial of freedom of expression;

We call on NGOs in the Middle East and North Africa, and the Arab region, to ask their governments to invite the UN Department of Public Information to host the 65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference;

We further call on the NGO/DPI Executive Committee to adopt the following theme for any conference dedicated to, or hosted in, the Middle East and North Africa, and the Arab region: “Diversity: The Only Path to Sustainable Peace and Development”;

We call on governments to acknowledge the importance of civil society organizations for the promotion of volunteerism and to recognize that strengthening the dialogue and interaction between civil society and the United Nations contributes to the expansion of volunteerism;

We note with appreciation the contributions of the UN Volunteers over the last 10 years and the marking the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers;

We note with appreciation the efforts of all UN DPI/NGO Conference participants to increase awareness of volunteerism through global outreach, information sharing and education.

### **Sustainable Lifestyles:**

We are convinced that our planet and the human-earth community will only survive, thrive and prosper by a shift to an economy that is sustainable and equitable, and focused on the elimination of the extremes of wealth and poverty through the actions of responsive citizens and volunteerism.

We note that unsustainable consumption and production patterns have been major contributors to climate change and poverty, and that sustainable development can only be ensured if humanity, directed and led by government policies, embraces humane, sustainable, low-carbon lifestyles and adopts sustainable livelihoods.

We note that sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods must be built on sustainable consumption and production in our globalizing world and equity among generations, genders, nations, cultures and languages.

We acknowledge that sustainable consumption, in particular, needs to consider the minimization of the environmental impact of purchasing decisions and the maximization of the social impact of our purchases.

We reaffirm consequently, that individuals, families and communities are key actors in achieving sustainable consumption and production and should be empowered and enabled through education in everyday life competencies to assume responsibility for achieving sustainable lifestyles all around the world.





## **Civic engagement in Sustainable Development Governance:**

We note that streamlining management of multilateral environment agreements, drawing on the foundations of community participation and governance structures and education for sustainable development, can provide better understanding to resolve complex sustainability issues.

We denounce the growing scarcity of resources to civil society organizations, oppressive action against social movements and the increasing criminalization of environmental and indigenous movements in many countries by governments and large multi-national corporations.

We further reaffirm that civic participation, including volunteering, has been a valuable partner in a broad spectrum of peace and sustainable development activities, with the overriding goal of poverty eradication and the betterment of the human condition, among a number of other causes;

We also recognize the contributions of civil society, NGO movements, trade unions, social entrepreneurs, and volunteer alliances and associations, ready to share responsibility with local and national governments in their communities.

We note the threats to freedom of expression, association and assembly. It is vital that the principles enshrined in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders are respected in law and practice.

We reaffirm that genuine involvement of youth, women, and wider civil society in decision-making processes and partnerships, as stressed in Agenda 21, Section 3, is critical to the success of sustainable development initiatives.

## **Other Issues to be Considered at RIO+20**

### **Education and Learning for Sustainable Development**

We acknowledge the necessity to reaffirm the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

We are convinced that the shift to a sustainable society is deeply dependent on the educational system;

We affirm that education should address the material, social and spiritual dimensions of human development, and in its fullest sense, education must provide the space for value-based sustainable learning;

We call for the respect and inclusion of ethnic languages in the educational system, as these languages comprise the complexity of their respective environments, and to take into consideration the potential of a neutral international language that combines ease of learning and clarity with neutrality, and therefore can be seen as inherently sustainable;

We call upon educational institutions to increase their participation in the transformation process for a sustainable society, in order to enhance capacity building of communities in which these institutions are located, to create an environment in which satisfying and sustained education can take place, developing national respect for education in natural, cultural and world heritage, thereby mainstreaming education for sustainable development in lifelong learning;

We recognize that music as a natural resource, and as a global commons, should be used in education to connect generations and global communities, to give voice to all and to participate in issues of global concern in providing solutions to global challenges;





We are aware that successful education and learning in all its forms are dependent on the full support of governments at all levels, the private sector, policy makers and the civil society;

We suggest the construction of laboratory schools in the context of post-conflict development that will teach skills through a variety of tools, including sports, to develop holistically minded citizens.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

To achieve the goals of Rio+20 in an ambitious, time-bound and accountable manner, we call upon governments in accordance with human rights, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and respective capabilities to adopt the following draft Sustainable Development Goals together with the sub-goals, reasons and clarifications relating to each goal:

The goals below are aspirational. While some of these are based on commitments already made by governments and other stakeholders, others are proposed on the basis of advanced thinking among civil society organizations.

**SDG - SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION:** By 2020, consistent with the Biodiversity Strategic Plan adopted at the 10th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (“CBD COP10”), the human ecological footprint is reduced so that it remains within the Earth’s biological carrying capacity. In accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, we call on nations and populations engaged in wasteful overconsumption to reduce their impacts and help increase the consumption of vital goods and services for impoverished nations and peoples, so they also can enjoy reasonably high standards of living that provide equitable access to health care, decent work opportunities and education.

By 2020, governments should promote production processes that reflect the best available technologies for eco-efficiency, recycling, remanufacturing, reuse of waste materials, product durability and longevity. Wasteful practices such as planned obsolescence are identified and eliminated. Public procurement standards and incentives reward leading corporations that share and disseminate best green practices worldwide. By 2020, the majority of the world’s goods and services are procured by governments from sources certified by objective third parties as sustainably produced.

This goal is tied to the preparation and implementation of sustainability or green economy roadmaps, which consider and address commonly agreed sustainability principles, adopt sustainable development goals in critical areas, and implement governance reforms to foster the transition to a green economy and to improve the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Further, establish a set of Millennium Consumption Goals for the period 2012-2020 towards creating an intergenerational and internationally shared right to equitable consumption opportunities and ensuring quality of life and wellbeing of all people by 2020, while eradicating all kinds and levels of poverty, respecting animal welfare and embedding sufficiency based sustainable economies.

**SDG - SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS, YOUTH & EDUCATION:** By 2015, nations commit to the principle of sustainable livelihoods as a right for all people and implement monetary, fiscal and language policies to encourage full and decent work. By 2020, biodiversity and ecosystem service considerations are mainstreamed within existing rural development platforms and initiatives to conserve sustainable livelihoods in indigenous and local communities that depend on natural capital for survival.

By 2015, governments incorporate within development frameworks as a priority, investments in the education, health and employment of young people, who constitute a large





proportion of the population of developing countries and face disproportionate levels of poverty, unemployment, gender discrimination and ill health. Governments should support comprehensive policies, youth participation and multisectoral programmes that empower present and future generations to fully and freely exercise their human rights, fulfill their aspirations and be productive citizens.

By 2030, national governments reorient all national aims and objectives towards achieving sustainable societies and will mainstream sustainable development into all national educational policies and curricula.

By 2020, consistent with the Biodiversity Strategic Plan adopted at CBD COP10, governments ensure that people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the step they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

**SDG - CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY:** By 2050, governments should have reached clear pathways towards climate sustainability that regulates the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees C. Emissions of greenhouse gases should be reduced to 25% of 1990 levels by 2020, 40% by 2030, 60% by 2040 and 80% by 2050. Carbon taxes and tariffs should be in place to provide incentives for low-carbon development and manufacturing, finance GHG emissions reduction projects, REDD+ and other offset mechanisms, and green infrastructure solutions to help vulnerable communities adapt to climate change.

Developed countries, as the main cause of climate change, in assuming their historical responsibility, must recognize and honour their climate debt in all of its dimensions as the basis for a just, effective, and scientific solution to climate change. The above goal shall include the equitable sharing of remaining atmospheric space, considering past use and consumption and mid and long-term emission reduction targets that are in line with what the science requires.

**SDG - CLEAN ENERGY:** By 2030, at least 50% of the world's energy supply comes from renewable sources. By 2020 energy demand is reduced through efficiency and conservation by at least 20%. By 2030 energy poverty is eliminated by providing universal access to modern energy services from renewable sources.

**SDG - BIODIVERSITY:** Governments are urged to honour their commitments to implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, in particular those related to the Green Economy such as Target 2: "By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems"; and Target 3: "By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimise or avoid negative impacts." We urge governments to support investments in natural infrastructure and ecological restoration and to facilitate the development of markets that value the regulatory services provided by ecosystems.

**SDG - WATER:** By 2030, governments will achieve universal availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods, ecosystems and production, adequate sanitation, coupled with an acceptable level of water-related risks to people, environments and economies.

This goal is over and above the achievement of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals. The right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation shall be recognized as a human right and it shall be the responsibility of all states to respect such right. As an interim goal, by 2015 the proportion of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water, and without access to basic sanitation, shall be halved as agreed in the JPOI.





By 2020, local, municipal and national governments and all stakeholders commit to achieve the following intermediate targets:

- 20% increase in total food supply-chain efficiency - reducing losses and waste from field to fork;
- 20% increase in water efficiency in agriculture - more nutrition and crop per drop;
- 20% increase in water use efficiency in energy production - more kWh per drop;
- 20% increase in the quantity of water reused;
- 20% decrease in water pollution;

SDG - HEALTHY SEAS AND OCEANS (BLUE ECONOMY): By 2020, consistent with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, governments establish at least 10% coastal and marine areas. By 2030, oceanic dead zones will be recovered by reducing nitrogen runoff from land by 50% or more. By 2020, Marine Protected Areas will be established in at least 25% of each Exclusive Economic Zones (“EEZ”) and the high seas in representative networks capable of restoring minimum viable populations of all at-risk stocks, protecting marine biological diversity, and maximising benefits to commercial and subsistence fishers in surrounding waters. By 2015, the use of bottom trawling, dynamite fishing, electro-fishing, poisons and other unsustainable practices will be eliminated. By 2030, reverse the decline of fish stocks and create sustainable and diverse and abundant fish stocks, supported by healthy habitat to provide for the needs of all users, and by 2015, ban the practice of shark finning.

We also make the following policy recommendations: (a) reduce plastic pollution in the oceans, including by banning or taxing single-use plastics, supporting the use of recycled plastics in new products, and holding manufacturers responsible for plastics through their entire life cycle; (b) establish an international monitoring network for ocean acidification to enable the identification of vulnerable regions and industries and to provide an early warning system for industries already experiencing harm; (c) designate the high seas of the Central Arctic Ocean as a zone for international scientific cooperation, where extractive and polluting activities are suspended until we have a better understanding of the area and the potential effects of such activities; and (d) schedule, as a matter of urgency, an intergovernmental conference to address the multiplying threats to ocean areas beyond the jurisdiction of individual nations.

SDG - HEALTHY FORESTS: By 2020, all remaining frontier forests are protected from conversion and degradation, consistent with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity adopted at COP10, with a well-resourced and equably governed REDD+ mechanism in place, which respects the rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities and other environmental and governance safeguards, to reward developing countries for protection and sustainable management of their forests, not only for carbon capture and storage but for their wider ecological services. A policy of no net loss of forestland, globally and nationally, is also achieved by 2020. At that time, all new forest areas cleared will be offset by ecologically sound restoration of forests in nearby areas. Restoration of over 150 million hectares of cleared or degraded forest landscapes is achieved by 2020, with the creation of millions of new jobs and enhanced livelihoods, improved security and adaptation to climate change.

Reduce deforestation emissions by key corporations and their supply chains committing to avoid the purchase of products that cause deforestation, such as soy or cattle from deforested lands in the Brazilian Amazon, palm oil from deforested agricultural land in Indonesia, or illegal wood and wood products throughout the world.





Additionally, for stakeholders everywhere to undertake and/or participate in large-scale, environmentally and socially responsible reforestation efforts.

Measures proposed under the Clean Development Mechanism (“CDM”) must be carefully examined by the communities depending on forests for their subsistence, as we see that they favour already important land-grabbing and the destruction of their livelihoods.

At Rio+20, we call on governments to pledge concrete and systematic support and promotion of multi stakeholder managed forest certification systems, in all parts of the world, with particular emphasis on tropical rainforests.

**SDG - SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE:** By 2030, global agricultural production is transformed from industrial to sustainable. Chemical inputs, herbicides, and pesticides are largely replaced with organic and biological alternatives. Interspersed natural areas are protected and restored as sources of pollination, pest control and soil fertility. Food for export is secondary to food for local consumption. Cultivated crop strains are diversified, as are production techniques and the mix of agricultural producers. Best management practices reduce erosion by 90% and nitrogen runoff by 50% or more. Local ecological knowledge of indigenous peoples, traditional, and local communities is utilized to identify resilient crops and cultivation practices that provide maximum protection against climate change.

This goal should also include sustainable and humane food systems that provide healthy food to meet current food needs while maintaining healthy ecosystems, farmer resilience, and ensure good animal health and welfare that can also provide food for generations to come with minimal negative impact to the environment, through agro-ecological farming systems. We consider the right to keep their own seeds as an important issue of farming.

A sustainable and humane food system should promote food sovereignty of communities, empower small-scale food producers in food and agricultural governance, and also encourage local production and distribution infrastructures with equal opportunities for men and women farmers, and the important role of youth in this area, and makes nutritious food available, accessible, and affordable to all, while at the same time providing sustainable livelihoods to producers through the payment of fair prices for their products. Sustainable food systems must be based on food sovereignty and the right for small-scale peasants, women’s groups and local communities to plant and exchange their seeds and share their knowledge.

Give strong and increasing support to small scale farming, producing healthy foods through targeted research, extension services and enabling conditions, and wherever possible, vegetarian diets, and to ensure women’s’ property and inheritance rights.

Recognize and support by all means possible, the important role and special needs of women as the primary producers and purchasers of food, along with the implementation of women’s property and inheritance rights.

**SDG - GREEN CITIES:** By 2030, cities have developed and are implementing action plans to address transport, public health and environmental needs in a harmonious and integrated way. By 2030, from the local to national, government policies foster compact, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented, urban development that minimizes energy use and maximizes residential health and that reflects the concept of a society for all ages. All new buildings meet green building standards by 2030. By 2030, city transport needs are or remain predominantly met by mass transport, walking and bicycling. Quality of life is also improved for residents by 2030, providing access to green buildings with urban rooftop gardens, clean water, clean energy, waste management systems and sustainable transport. By 2030, urban areas with significant storm water pollution issues reduce impervious surface area by 30% below 2012 levels.





**SDG - SUBSIDIES AND INVESTMENT:** By 2020 at the latest, consistent with the Biodiversity Strategic Plan adopted at CBD COP10, harmful incentives, including subsidies, for fossil fuel production, unsustainable agricultural, fisheries and forest practices, and those harmful to biodiversity, are eliminated, phased out or redirected to promote renewable energy, sustainable practices and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. By 2015, governments commit to a minimum investment of 2% of GDP per year to foster the transition to a green economy, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.

**SDG - NEW INDICATORS OF PROGRESS:** By 2020, nations supplement or replace GDP with a new measure of sustainable economic welfare based on best available information at that time. Economic performance and the forecasted effects of policy changes will be measured by this new metric. We encourage a process of continuous improvement and refinement of the new measure over time and an international process to set standards and make available common methods and data sources. We also encourage the adoption of several other headline indicators of environmental, economic, social, cultural and linguistic sustainability to provide a measure of progress towards the green economy transition, such as civic participation, improved well-being and achievement of sustainable development goals.

**SDG - ACCESS TO INFORMATION:** By 2022, governments will enact and implement Freedom of Information laws giving people the right to obtain accurate and truthful information held by their government, especially on the environment. Governments will actively make available to all stakeholders useful, accurate and truthful well-publicised data and information in appropriate formats and languages, including on the internet. These laws should include whistleblower protection and should extend to information disclosure by corporations.

**SDG - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** By 2022, governments need to ensure that voluntarism and citizen engagement are incorporated in all global, national and local action plans for implementation of sustainable development and human well-being, to commit to the creation of an enabling environment for citizen engagement and voluntary action, and will include mandatory public participation in (a) major development project approvals and environmental impact assessment procedures, (b) drafting of national level sustainable development policies, laws and regulations and (c) administrative decisions such as pollution permitting.

**SDG - ACCESS TO REDRESS AND REMEDY:** By 2022, governments will adopt and implement laws ensuring effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings concerning sustainable development, including redress and remedy. In particular, they will ensure that the costs of such proceedings are reasonable and affordable to affected people and that access to such proceedings is available through expansion of legal standing and other means to interested people and organizations.

**SDG - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR THE POOR AND MARGINALISED:** By 2022, governments will adopt laws that obligate government agencies to take appropriate measures to provide information and engage affected people living in poverty, women and other disadvantaged groups when making sustainable development decisions.

**SDG - BASIC HEALTH:** By 2015, to support attainment of the health MDGs, and to contribute to health, well-being and sustainable development, ensure universal access to health care and services, wherever feasible, free at the point of use for women and children, and including sexual and reproductive health, and thus strengthen the resilience of people and communities to the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation.

We call on governments to foster sustainable health systems as an indispensable condition for sustainable development of societies through provision of essential health services, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and production of healthy cross-sectoral public policies.





We endorse the finalization of a global mercury treaty by February 2013 that will aggressively limit the global use and trade in mercury and reduce global mercury emissions.

We recommend a ban on the export of mercury and the mining of mercury for export and secure the agreement by chlor-alkali and mining companies not to place mercury into commerce and take responsibility for ensuring its safe management.

We recommend the creation new partnerships around the responsible sourcing of raw materials for production and the regulation of specific harmful chemicals.

We call for the further strengthening the World Health Organization in this process.

We call on governments to address social determinants of health as a means of reducing global health inequities through acknowledging that all policies affect health. Health equity is paramount towards sustainable societies.

We call on governments to make direct and relevant interventions to improve young peoples' health ensuring their role as agents of change for a sustainable society, and to ensure the development of financing mechanisms for health systems.

We welcome the recognition of the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme as the focal point for the follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers, and request it to continue to raise awareness of the contribution of volunteerism to sustainable development, to act as a convener on the subject for the various interested stakeholders, to make available networking and reference resources and to provide technical cooperation to developing countries, at their request.

We call upon the United Nations, through its regular budgetary process and mechanisms, to enable the UN Department of Communications and Public Information ("DPI") to host this annual Conference and to provide DPI with consistent and predictable financial and human resources that are needed to do so.

We thank the people and Government of Germany and the city and Mayor of Bonn for their warm welcome and for hosting the 64th Annual Conference of the UN Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations.

We ask that all parties involved with UN conferences increase their efforts towards reducing the ecological footprint of these events and hereby setting a positive example.



## Annex I:

### Exhibits Offer NGOs Opportunity to Connect the Dots

Taking their cue from the title of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens”, 26 exhibits and 15 side events organized by NGOs, most of them from Germany, the United States, UN bodies, and the City of Bonn, provided an excellent opportunity for civil society to network, share best practices, view each other’s sustainability and volunteerism projects as they connected the dots between both subthemes.

Colourful exhibit booths were erected with informative and illustrative material, like posters, such as Seeds of Hope by Soka Gakkai International, brochures, postcards, technical apparatus, such as the “Rescue E-Bike with health and water technologies” by Naturtec Institute, and art, for example the St. Martin bronze statue by Uwe Brecht that symbolised sharing.

Another artwork, created by Barbara Holub, titled “The Blue Frog Society / A Habitat without Territory”, was an interactive installation inviting conference participants to question concepts of territory/habitat and explore the potential of a world without borders through an artistic lens. The installation subsequently traveled to the Galerie Traklhaus, Salzburg, thereby presenting NGO input to the art world. The project was prepared in collaboration with Shamina de Gonzaga of the World Council of Peoples for the UN and the Ministry of Art, Education and Culture of Austria.

The NGO exhibits were arranged according to several categories.

#### General

- Talking about Our Generation – Deutsche Model UN (DMUN)
- A Network of Recycling Volunteers in 17 countries – Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation



DPI exhibits its books and brochures at the Conference.



- Foundation for Amity & National Solidarity
- 1,000 Peace Women across the Globe – German Women’s Council
- CEFE International – A global network for a sustainable CEFE society and market
- Volunteers for International Partnership – A presentation for common goals, programs and volunteer opportunities – Federation of National Representations of the Experiment in International Living
- Investing and Nurturing Young Children’s Capabilities for a Sustainable Future – World Organization for Early Childhood Education

## Health

- Power of Empathy for a Sustainable Society by Ergosoma – Foundation for Subjective Experience and Research S.E.R.
- Healthy Human, the Axis of Sustainable Development – Charity Foundation for Special Diseases (CFFSD)
- Social Sustainability: Increasing Value for Societies – Creating a Mutual Understanding of Health and Disease; and Sea: Our Future: Energy from the Ocean – Baltic Sea Forum
- Initiatives and Policies that Optimize Well Being – World Heart Federation
- Rescue E-Bike with health and water technologies – Naturetec Institute

## Sustainability

- Sustainability and Equity: Towards a Better Future for All – United Nations Association of Germany (DGVN e.V.)
- UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in Germany – German Commission for UNESCO



Fairtrade International offers informational material on their work.



Members of Soroptimists served as a global voice for food and water.



- The Ribbon International and Post Card Exhibit - The Ribbon International, KIK and WCA
- Sowing the Seeds of Sustainability: Awareness, Solar energy, Volunteerism - Brahma Kumanis World Spiritual University
- Seeds of Hope: Visions of Sustainability, Steps toward Change - Soka Gakkai International (SGI)

## Women and Family

- Promoting Healthy and Sustainable Lifestyles - International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE e.V.)
- Women as Decision makers: From Sustainable Farmers to Responsible Consumers - Soroptimist International
- Fairtrade: Promoting Sustainable Societies through Sustainable Consumption - Fairtrade International

## Ecology

- Aims and Activities of IFOAM - International Federation for Organic Movements (IFOAM e. V.)
- Ecovillages: Design at the Edge - Findhorn Foundation
- Responsible Management of the World's Forests - Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- Volunteerism and Development in the Central Rainforest in Ecuador - Friendship Ambassadors Foundation

*Josefine Brecht and Anne von Laufenberg-Beermann, SubCommittee Co-Chairs of the German Focal Group*



## Annex II:

# Excellent Learning Opportunity for Youth to Connect the Dots between Sustainability and Volunteerism

## Introduction

The 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, titled “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens”, was an opportunity for NGOs to discuss and strategise about these topics of international importance. Youth had a significant presence at the Conference and were engaged as representatives of NGOs as well as members of the Youth Subcommittee, responsible for planning events and mobilising young people to have maximum impact at the Conference.

A series of Youth Networking Events was planned by the Youth Subcommittee. These events included three youth breakfasts, an organic farm tour, and two evening social events. At these events and during informal meetings youth gathered to network and discuss how to incorporate its priorities into the Conference outcome. This report discusses these youth events in order to assess the influence of youth participants on the Conference and the impact the Conference had on the youth in attendance.

## Youth Breakfasts

Every morning of the Conference, up to 40 youth gathered for a breakfast session sponsored by Rutgers University and led by members of the Youth Subcommittee. Each session featured a prominent speaker from the conference and gave youth a chance to inter-



Speakers at the Youth Pre-Conference event in New York: Mitch Lowenthal, Kelly Roberts, Dan Bena, Dr. Michael Dorsey and Brice LaLonde



act with these speakers in a more intimate environment as well as engage in discussions among ourselves about the topics and youth involvement.

### Youth attended from the following educational institutions and organizations:

- International Federation of Medical Students Association
- Spire
- Deutsche Model United Nations eV
- Rio +20s
- Lehigh University
- Rutgers University
- Global Common Service International
- YMCA World Alliance
- UNI-Gruppe of DGVN Berlin-Brandenburg
- World Future Council
- Taking it Global
- Tzu Chi Foundation
- Women Overseas Service League
- City College of New York
- Soroptimist International
- SPUN
- International Network of Engineers and Scientists against Proliferation

### Saturday, 3 September

**Speaker:** Felix Dodds, *Conference Chair, Stakeholders Forum*

**Co-leaders:** Janina Pescinski and Joseph Tadros, *Rutgers University*

This breakfast was the perfect kickoff to youth engagement. Felix Dodds, Conference Chair, was an engaging speaker, and easy for the youth to relate to due to his bright tennis shoes and quirky neckties. His presentation focused on lobbying and networking strategies that would be useful to youth throughout the Conference and in future UN work.

Mr. Dodds talked about the work of NGOs based on his experiences, using organizing for the Rio+20 Conference as an example. He listed several opportunities of how an NGO can influence such a process as Rio+20. His favorite strategy is spending time in the coffee bar, having face to face time with government representatives in a more personal setting in order to actually convey his points.

Mr. Dodds taught us several specific strategies that are useful for UN meetings: have a photo booklet of the key negotiators, designate point contacts for all key people (EU, G77, etc.), appoint floor managers in each negotiation room, and use informal opportunities like drinks, dinner and dance. Most importantly, he emphasized, if you are spending more



that 20 percent of your time with NGOs rather than government representatives, you are not doing your job.

Mr. Dodds explained that to be successful you must know your own goals and the decision-making process. You must also know decisions are made in your country and when to work at what level (local, national, international). This will help you to identify key government and UN officials to target. You also must be aware of your limits so that you set goals and pursue a realistic plan of action.

After this presentation, the participants broke up into small groups to discuss how to use these strategies to maximise their impact at the Conference. First, they described the status quo as they see it, and then discussed possibilities of getting youth involved. There is a gap between youth and politics, and even though youth have strength in numbers, they don't have a strong voice in the political sphere. Youth can motivate a lot of people, as young people have similar goals, but they are the ones who have to be the voice to articulate those goals.

We also brainstormed about finding a platform that makes it easy for a lot of people to voice their opinion, for instance social media, then speaking to local parliamentary representatives to show we care, and finding the right journalists to gain publicity for our cause.

Finally, the group discussed its goals for the Conference, which included learning about lobbying and the topics discussed at the Conference, getting involved, building a network of youth and NGOs, learning how to react in different situations when negotiating, finding ways to support the development of society and influencing society through volunteering. One essential point for us was the importance of the informal sessions and opportunities we should use when trying to influence political processes. Throughout the Conference they used what they learned and the goals they discussed to shape their involvement.



Kelly Roberts, right, of NAFSA, leads an evening Youth Workshop.



## Sunday, 4 September

**Speakers:** Daniel Mittler, *Greenpeace International*; Constanza Martinez, *International Union for Conservation of Nature*

**Co-leaders:** Julian von Lutz and Marthe Kethels, *Deutsche Model United Nations*

This breakfast was organized as a dialogue with Daniel Mittler from Greenpeace International and Constanza Martinez of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. One key issue concerned strategies to engage youth to play a larger part in international sustainable development negotiations. Each speaker brought a unique perspective to the topic, but both agreed that educating ourselves about what is currently being done and acting on current initiatives is the best strategy.

Ms. Martinez taught the youth that the green economy is not a new concept. Born in the 1980s, this idea is currently undergoing review by UNEP to better reflect the reality of intersecting economic, social, and environmental agendas. She continued by outlining the challenges faced in tackling issues concerning the green economy, primarily because it is not well-defined. In light of this, plus the various agendas affecting the reality of the green economy, the road to Rio in 2012 will be tougher and very different than it was in 1992. Given the financial crisis that began in 2008 and the close shave with a US debt crisis this past summer, it is going to be far more difficult to inspire enthusiasm for Rio+20. In order to move forward, Ms. Martinez said, we should look towards creating more instruments for enforcement, rather than adopting more conventions. Furthermore, we should also recommit to existing conventions, with special attention to operationalization and implementation.

Mr. Mittler spoke about the difficulties that young people face in getting excited about Rio+20. Conferences are a platform to hold global conversations, especially with youth, who, he opined, are a group capable of doing great things. He noted that it is important for young people to learn how the UN system works in order to be able to use Rio+20 as an opportunity to have the sorts of conversations that they would like to have. He advised young people to work not only as professionals in the UN system, but also to explore other avenues to be aware of the world and how people operate outside of the UN in order to be better equipped for advocacy.

Several questions posed to the speakers concerned recent global developments and their impact on the discourse at Rio+20, and others pertained to strategies to adopt at Rio+20. The speakers expressed a mix of optimism and realism. While it is encouraging to note that social movements and the renewable industry have picked up pace in recent years, they both noted that more work needs to be done and the potential for youth contributions.

## Monday, 5 September

**Speaker:** Edvin Arnby Machata, *Taking it Global*

**Co-leaders:** Brendan Mark Soo and Amanda Angri, *Fordham University*

The final breakfast presentation, by Edvin Arnby Machata from Taking it Global, focused on where the responsibility lies for creating sustainable societies. Everyone has at least some responsibility in huge social problems, he said, explaining that consumers are the cause of the environmental impact of consumption and therefore must take responsibility for that.

Mr. Machata identified three major actors: consumers, the state and private companies, and asked us to sort them based on environmental impact and level of organization.



### **Environmental impact**

1. Consumers
2. Private companies
3. The state

### **Level of organization**

1. The state
2. Private companies
3. Consumers

He explained that consumers have the most environmental impact but the least organization, so the greatest onus to take action falls on the state, which has the most organization. However, there is a lack of coordination among these three actors, which Mr. Machata described as a “tragedy of the commons” situation.

He outlined how consumers/citizens, state/government, private companies and civil society can influence each other.

The participants then divided into groups to discuss where civil society fits into this scheme. Each group came up with a different solution. One group said the arrangement should look like the rings of a tree, with citizens at the center, then civil society, the state, and companies. Another group said it was a trick question, and that civil society can fit anywhere in the arrangement, because it has an impact on all three actors, but is also impacted by them. The final group had a similar response, saying that civil society is on the same level as private companies, but with arrows linking it to the state and citizens, because it both influences and is influenced by all these actors.

Mr. Machata said he initially placed civil society on the same level as government, because it is influenced by consumer citizens, like the state, but not by profit such as private companies. However, after hearing our responses he reconsidered and said that maybe this model is more flexible than he originally imagined. Engaging in this discussion with a high-level NGO representative was encouraging for youth, because it proved how influential our ideas can be.

## **Organic Farm Tour, Friday, 2 September**

Regional production? Organic products? Biological-dynamic cultivation? These seem to be abstract terms to be read on the products we find in “bio stores”. But how are they actually made? What do farms that sow and harvest these kinds of products look like?

With these questions in mind, we arrived at Gut Ostler, an educational and experimental farm in Bonn. The tour was guided by Phillip, an agricultural student, who explained to us how they grow organic crops and take care of the land in a natural way, which means without fertilizers and pesticides. Having an organic farm, explained Phillip, is not easy because the products need more care, more time and they are, therefore, more expensive. The result of their careful work could be seen in the colourful and big produce — in comparison with the ones in the supermarket.

The farm has five main activities: agriculture, apiculture, animal husbandry, educational programs for children and the commercialization of their products. Gut Ostler is labeled by the German Government as a “demonstration farm”. This means it has been working for years within certified standards and is therefore a “best case” for organic agriculture in Germany. It is located in a green area inside Bonn that has been protected by “green groups” willing to harvest their own food and to enjoy the nature inside the city.



We see that responsive, sustainable enterprises do exist and that they make a difference. They grow crops, they teach, they sell, they make aware. Gut Ostler us aware of this.

## Youth Social Events, Friday and Sunday, 2 and 4 September

These informal events gave youth a chance to meet with peers and enjoy the city of Bonn. The first pub crawl started with an ice-breaker game, which was a fun way to encourage the youth to start getting to know each other. The group of about 30 youth then split into two smaller groups for conversation. Later the groups met again to mingle with other people. The next day, when we saw each other at the youth breakfast and at workshops, we were eager to discuss the conference themes because we had already met in this informal setting.

On Sunday night, the youth ate dinner together at a restaurant near the Conference hotel and then attended the conference-wide evening party. It was a fun way to relax and celebrate our successes at the Conference!

## Youth Workshop, Saturday, 3 September

### **Advocacy Training Workshop for Rio+20 and the Building of a Green Economy**

**Sponsor:** Peace Child International

**Speakers:** Youth representatives from several international NGOs working on Rio+20

This workshop gave youth from around the world, who are active in preparing for Rio+20, an opportunity to share their activism strategies. There were diverse projects, from simplifying UN documents into the format of a children's book to make the material more digestible, to online strategising using social media.

After the presentations, the participants divided into small groups with one panelist joining each group to brainstorm desired outcomes for the Rio+20 Conference. These groups gave us the chance to learn about Rio+20 in detail from a youth expert as well as discuss advocacy tactics. When the groups reconvened for a discussion comparing our priorities for Rio+20, the strongest desire was for youth to speak with one voice. Youth are eager to get involved prior to the conference in June 2012, and suggestions for involvement included spreading youth messaging by using social media and encouraging youth to develop new collaboration strategies with governments, corporations and NGOs. This session was extremely useful for long-term youth strategising towards our future goals for Rio+20. It was effective because it was led by youth for youth.

## Conclusion

This Conference was an excellent learning opportunity for youth to connect the dots from sustainability to volunteerism, and many topics in between. The most inspiring part of the Conference was the impact youth were able to have when we organized amongst ourselves. Each afternoon the youth met to discuss the outcomes document being drafted with policy proposals from the conference. We assembled our own policy objectives on behalf of the youth and were able to integrate them into the declaration that will be presented to the UN. The declaration highlights the need for youth empowerment and "recommends promotion of youth volunteering strategies which engage young people as agents for sustainable development and peace". This is proof that the international community is taking our efforts as youth volunteers and activists seriously and is making a commitment to further promote youth engagement.

**Janina Pescinski**, Rutgers University; with contributions from: **Ana Paulina Rosas**, **Marthe Kethels** and **Julian von Lutz**, Deutsche Model UN eV, **Amanda Angri** and **Brendan Foo**, Fordham University



## **Pre-Conference Youth Briefing: ‘Our Year, Our Voice, Engaging Youth Towards a Green Economy’**

The New York-based Youth Subcommittee of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference Planning Committee, in collaboration with DPI/NGO Relations, held on 9 June a Pre-Conference Youth Briefing in New York titled “Day of Youth”.

The participants were welcomed by UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Kiyoko Akasaka and Ambassador Miguel Berger, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN. Afterward the four panelists engaged the audience in a lively discussion on issues related to sustainable development, which highlighted ways youth could become involved in the green economy campaign.

The Youth Briefing brought awareness of the various challenges facing youth as they work towards creating a more sustainable society and world. Each of the speakers called on the young generation to step up and become active. Panelist Brice Lalonde, Executive Coordinator for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development known as Rio+20, offered a candid presentation on what youth can do in lobbying for a greener economy. He began by explaining the often conflicting nature of achieving global objectives, such as trying to lift the millions of people living in poverty into economic stability, while also limiting the amount of resources extracted from the environment. He advised youth to establish their voice as the “long-term watchers”. Youth need to be the voice of the long-term and future effects of environmental decisions. “It is your time, so use it well”, Mr. Lalonde concluded.

Mitch Lowenthal of SustainUS: U.S. Youth for Sustainable Development, spoke about the ways youth can become involved in promoting a greener economy. He highlighted the technological know-how of young people and their ability to get people motivated, as well as their strong purchasing power to help change non-sustainable habits. He said their voices can hold those with power accountable for their actions.

Dan Bena, Senior Director of Sustainable Development at PepsiCo, discussed what the beverage manufacturer is doing to promote sustainable development. In a recent survey presented by PepsiCo to its customers, the company asked, “What do you hold companies completely responsible for?” Mr. Bena explained that consumers said they held companies accountable for not harming the environment, not hurting people, and creating safe and quality products. According to Mr. Bena, PepsiCo works to achieve all three of these goals while also employing a strategic business plan that increases their profit while helping the community as well. Mr. Bena noted that if the voice of youth, particularly youth consumers, is loud enough, then they can get businesses to concede to their demands, if not out of actual concern for the issue, but concern for doing good business.

The final panelist, Michael Dorsey, a professor of environmental studies at Dartmouth College, shared his perspective on corporate and government responsibility and the role of youth in creating a sustainable environment. He pointed out that a minority now controls the majority of resources. For instance, he said, less than 1 percent of the population controls all the capital of the United States. Mr. Dorsey explained that the role of youth is to create a resistance to the dominant paradigms that outline how governments and corporations claim to respond to needs for sustainability. He concluded that in using their voice, youth should feel responsible to seek truth over mendacity, shine light over darkness, and ensure planning over promises. The event concluded with a NGO networking fair for youth to mingle with NGO representatives, sustainable development organizations and panelists.

As a result of the youth briefing, the youth delegates submitted outcomes statements for



consideration into the Final Declaration of the Conference. These statements summarized their desire for improved access to technology for young people, for corporations to engage youth to make sustainable development initiatives a key part of their work by taking local communities into consideration and to help young people develop skill sets that are required for sustainable development.

Kelly Roberts, Co-Chair of the New York Youth Subcommittee, said the Youth Subcommittee had many helpers in planning this event, including 30 Youth Council students from Ramapo College, Fordham University, Rutgers University, Teacher's College, Columbia University, CUNY, Stony Brook University, Long Island University, and the University of Wisconsin. Ms. Roberts also expressed thanks to Felix Dodds, Chair of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, and UN DPI/NGO Relations for collaborating to make the event a "Day of Youth", as well as UN Volunteers, the Committee of Experts of the Conference Planning Committee and the German Mission for hosting this event.



## Annex III:

# Media Subcommittee Report

## Media Strategy

The Media Strategy for the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn, Germany, was a major challenge in large measure because of the difference in perception in the way DPI conceptualised the Annual Conference and the vision of our host, the City of Bonn. In the other countries, which hosted this Conference, the meeting was seen as an international event with regional and national interest. In this case, though the Government of Germany was the official sponsor, this was seen more as a regional conference to Western and Eastern Europe with outreach within the City of Bonn itself and outside Germany to the global NGO community. This then narrowed the focus of the media outreach within Germany. The German partners on this Subcommittee were also decided on rather late in the process and had to serve two masters both the Media Subcommittee and the local Coordinator, which sometimes put them at odds with the full Planning Committee's plans. We, however, always found a compromise and overall the Subcommittee worked well and the strategy as conceptualised was implemented. Meetings were held virtually every two weeks from 10 February to 24 August 2011.

The Media Strategy aimed to achieve the following goals:

- Secure renewed commitment from the NGO community to the issue of sustainable development, by assessing the progress made to date, specifically around the issues of building sustainable societies through responsive citizenship.
- Offer NGOs and civil society activists in the fields of environment, development and volunteerism through the four Conference Roundtables, the 38 NGO-led workshops, and several exhibits, an opportunity to examine emerging issues, and to raise questions on such critical issues as the green economy and its link to social equity.
- Identify challenges and obstacles as the global NGO community prepared its position on Rio+20.
- Examine the role of volunteerism in promoting sustainability as an important overarching theme of the Conference, in preparation for the General Assembly's high-level discussions on this issue in December 2011.

In addition, the Conference was expected to:

- Provide opportunities for NGO participants to share their expertise and lessons learned on sustainable development and volunteerism;
- Provide a venue for the NGO community in Europe, particularly Eastern and Central Europe, to discuss issues with Conference delegates from other regions before formulating their common position for Rio+20;
- Examine the role of civil society in helping to achieve sustainability through civic engagement and global voluntary action;
- Reclaim as the underlying principles of volunteerism its building blocks of respect, understanding, trust, solidarity and reciprocity as volunteers work to promote sustainable societies;



- Think globally and act locally on matters such as sustainable consumption and production, improving governance at all levels;
- Help move on-going discussions forward on such issues as water, energy, food security, forests and trade issues.

As in previous years, the Conference was expected to produce an NGO Declaration and a Call to Action for civil society, UN member states and the international community. The hope was to have the outcome document adopted by the annual Conference and, following the Conference, introduced by the host country government in the competent UN fora, which in past years included the UN General Assembly and the Security Council. This year the appropriate fora would be the Rio+20 preparatory process beginning in December 2011 and the General Assembly's two-day meeting on the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers.

## Strategic Considerations

Media efforts could not begin in earnest until the requisite counterparts in Germany were on Board. This did not take place until mid-April which was a rather late start bearing in mind the Conference was scheduled for the beginning of September.

Since August was expected to be a quiet month in Europe because of traditional vacation time being taken, this put tremendous pressure on the team to target the bulk of its efforts between June when the Strategy was completed and the end of July when the holiday period began. This situation, in turn, did not leave a great deal of time for getting the word out effectively.

Aspiring journalists from the around the world (shown here) participated in the Student Journalism Programme at the Conference.



Media efforts were also restricted by the fact that the German Focal Group indicated very early that national coverage was unlikely in large measure because the country had witnessed many conferences on the topic of sustainability and the environment and might be experiencing “burn out”. It was therefore suggested that media efforts concentrate on local press in Bonn and special media interested in issues of sustainability since many of these work for nationwide media outlets. Attached is Appendix 5 with a list of specialised media and Appendix 2, which contains a list of local personalities who it was suggested should be engaged in a media campaign to publicise the Conference. This therefore put added pressure on the UNRIC office in Bonn, supported by desk officers and staff of the UNIC and UNIS client countries in Europe, to urgently reach out to the local and special media to ensure that interest in the Conference was created.

## Outreach

Audiences were identified and key messages developed to help promote the Conference, utilizing UN, NGO, local, regional and international sources with special emphasis on Germany, the City of Bonn, Eastern and Central Europe and the UNIC/UNRIC network across Europe as well as the New York metropolitan area and interested international media. Important messages reflected in all products and material included:

- **We can all take part in creating equal opportunities for all:** which stressed the need to break the cycle of poverty and offer people more opportunities to build their capabilities and make a difference to development; increasing their choices for improving their own lives and those of others. This message also stressed the concept of “balanced development” as a critical element for both lifting people out of poverty, as called for by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), while also getting them involved in protecting the natural systems that support economic growth.
- **Changing lifestyles and livelihoods; making development possible:** which emphasized that achieving sustainable development and changing lifestyles called for “connecting the dots” between protecting the planet and giving people a chance for a better life.
- **Change requires collective action:** this message stressed the fact that social change “comes from responsive citizens, who think differently and take action to make change happen”.
- **Grassroots volunteer action continues to lead the way:** this statement identified justice, equality and solidarity as the core values humanity aspires to achieve. It called for engaging, inspiring, and building on the capacity of ordinary people at the grassroots to volunteer their services and exchange skills and experiences locally, regionally and globally to help to bring these core values to the fore.
- **Connecting the Dots:** this idea encouraged civil society to be proactive about educating communities around the world to make the important links between climate change, water, energy and food. It also emphasized connecting the dots between many critical issues including protecting the planet, giving people a chance for a better life, environmental changes, social development concerns, and achieving a green economy.

## Multi-media Approach

The Subcommittee developed a multi-media approach which included traditional as well as new media tools such as You Tube, Twitter and the NGO Blog for promotion of



the Conference. Publicity and promotion was handled by the Media Subcommittee of the Conference which was coordinated by Gail Bindley-Taylor, UN DPI Information Officer for NGO Relations and Media Coordinator for the Conference.

The media campaign was carried out through four major pillars. First, publicity in Germany and Europe was lead by the Desk Officer for Germany Arne Molfenter working closely with the team of UNRIC desk officers as well as UNIC and UNIS officers serving client countries in Europe. UNRIC was also tasked with the responsibility for media accreditation for the Conference particularly press in Germany and Europe, as well as reaching out to NGOs in the region that wished to become associated with the Department of Public Information.

Secondly, the two members of the German NGO Focal Group's Media Subcommittee Jennifer Stapper (Chair) and Emily Davila (Co-Chair) were in charge of outreach to the NGO media and were substantive members of the team: their advice and recommendations on handling the German media and their input in designing the strategy were invaluable. It was unfortunate that they joined the team only in April 2011 and that having two reporting lines, one to the NGO Focal Group Coordinator and the other to the Media Coordinator for the Conference, made it sometimes difficult for them to be as effective as they could have been. They also established and developed the NGO Blog and provided the blog with writing and editorial support. In addition they were in charge of publicising the public programme and Conference activities on the blog.

Thirdly, there were the efforts of the New York NGO Media Subcommittee headed by Estelle Perry and Co-Chaired with Bill Hunter, representative to the United Nations; Director, Global Union, and Fulbright on-campus representative at Lehigh University, with assistance from Fanny Munlin, Judy Kuriansky and Joan Levy. This team worked closely with Ms. Bindley-Taylor to create and implement an effective Conference media strategy. The New York NGO Media Subcommittee's main focus was on helping to bolster the participation of NGOs particularly those associated with UN DPI and/or have consultative status with ECOSOC, whether based in the United States or other regions of the world by getting the word out on the Conference. Ms. Perry and Ms. Kuriansky also assisted Mr. Hunter with the administration of the Student Journalists Programme. (See report on the Student Journalist Programme.

The fourth element was the Student Journalist Programme which this year was coordinated by Mr. Hunter whose report is below.

## Conference Outputs

### 1. UNIC/UNIS /UNRIC Activities

UNICs received several hundred inquiries about Conference participation and media accreditation in the months leading up to the Conference. They disseminated information on association with DPI to more than 4,000 NGOs in Europe by e-mail as well as by individual consultations.

UNICs also provided regular updates on the DPI/NGO Conference to NGOs in client countries (including promotion of the student journalist programme to universities and media contacts, as well as further dissemination of useful information received from the DPI/NGO Relations section in New York). Promotional activities led to an increased visibility of DPI, the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, awareness of association with DPI, as well as new applications for association with DPI.





The “filming” nun records civil society’s views on sustainability and volunteerism for posterity.

### Media Output

A total of seven background briefings and seminars on the upcoming conference were organized in Prague, Vienna and Bonn. Close to 500 NGO representatives attended these events.

UNICs disseminated six backgrounders and updates in local languages in the run-up to the Conference to NGOs, as well as media and government institutions across Europe. Information about the Conference was also disseminated via UNIC Facebook and Twitter pages and reached several thousand NGOs in Europe.

In anticipation of the Conference, UNICs sent out five press releases before, during and after the conference to more than 10,000 contacts across Europe as well as to Permanent Missions to the UN, NGOs, civil society and academia. These press releases were also re-issued to the media in European client countries, as well as to Permanent Missions to the UN, NGOs, civil society and academia.

UNRIC’s Benelux Desk managed to obtain a full advertisement page about the Conference (free of charge) in the European Voice magazine. The ad was published in two editions on 20 and 28 July. The European Voice is a weekly published in Brussels and distributed throughout all EU circles, including NGOs. European Voice is part of the Economist group.

UNRIC’s German Desk successfully placed four op-eds in leading German dailies. The op-eds were written by well-known German scientists, politicians and artists, and covered different aspects of sustainable development. The op-eds were also sent to UNIS Vienna for publication in Austria.



## 2. NGO Outreach Activities

The media team was informed by its German counterparts that NGO media interest in the Conference would be small given a number of upcoming meetings following the Conference on related themes with which many were involved. Efforts were made to attract the German public in Bonn as well as those coming to the Conference with a public programme which included a Town Hall meeting aimed mainly at the local population to raise awareness of the issues of the Conference as well as a Tree Planting Ceremony just prior to the opening of the Conference, which would feature mainly local participants, including the Mayor of Bonn. There were tours for delegates to the Conference of an organic farm and other presentations and activities by local NGOs, demonstrating the theme, hoping to attract the attention of the ordinary citizen in Bonn to the Conference.

Our German media team was also responsible for facilitating the partnership with Deutsche Welle in support of the Student Journalist Programme.

## 3. German NGO Media Output

### Blog/ Website

More than 65 posts were written on the blog between 1 August and 5 September by a team of 16 student journalists, two media chairs, two paid consultants and trainees from the Deutsche Welle Journalist program. The majority of the content during the Conference came from the student journalists. Posts were edited by a volunteer professional editor. The main driver of traffic to the blog came from the official UN DPI/NGO website link and posts to the Facebook DPI conference page. Website traffic averaged 350 per day at its peak, with a total of 3,700 unique viewers to the website.

### Deutsche Welle Partnership

Deutsche Welle also produced a blog written by international student trainees (10) who were quite skilled in their ability to use radio, video and print media. The trainees were also supported by a team of professors and professional technical equipment. The DW trainee blog was more audio-visual, with less written content, but very high quality. We worked in partnership to the best of our ability despite some limitations, and shared content, especially videos on both blogs. Deutsche Welle made a final slide show that was shown at the Conference's Closing Ceremony.

### Press Releases

The NGO media team produced three press releases in anticipation of the Conference, during the Conference and at its close. NGOs had one press conference with NGO representatives. It was not highly attended. For press coverage see list below. There was not a lot of press coverage in mainstream press, but NGOs later wrote about the Conference in their newsletters and web pages. For example Fairtrade International posted several blogs about the conference.

### Social Media

Twitter and Facebook were used throughout the Conference, and they were a main driver to the NGO blog. One challenge to social media use was lack of Wi-Fi access (payment was required) throughout the Conference center.

### Media Photo Opportunities

There were several photo opportunities that helped add texture to the Conference coverage. The opening tree planting ceremony with balloon launch made for great green



photos with key spokespeople. A tour of sites in sustainable Bonn also provided outdoor photos of solar panels, people, and Fairtrade products. Other opportunities included the work of local artists that was featured at the Conference.

<b>Blog visits: By country</b>	
<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of visits</b>
United States	1,381
Germany	956
United Kingdom	189
France	80
Australia	62
Others	640
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,308</b>

<b>Blog visits: Most Popular Posts</b>		
<b>Post</b>	<b>Number of Unique Visitors</b>	<b>Number of visits</b>
Sitting at the Adult Table: Youth Sub-Committee Members and the Conference Declaration <a href="http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=1260">http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=1260</a>	251	211
20 Student Journalists Engaged with the 64th UN DPI/NGO Conference <a href="http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=680">http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=680</a>	181	135
It is Your World. Now Fix It. <a href="http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=1215">http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=1215</a>	153	125
Without Volunteering, Sustainability Fails <a href="http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=992">http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=992</a>	133	108
Volunteerism Drives Sustainable Development <a href="http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=1028">http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=1028</a>	117	101



<b>Blog visits: Per Day</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Unique Visitors</b>	<b>Number of visits</b>
8/24/11	41	53
8/25/11	44	73
8/26/11	53	65
8/27/11	21	26
8/28/11	70	74
8/29/11	62	75
8/30/11	72	87
8/31/11	69	90
9/01/11	81	103
9/02/11	101	126
<b>9/03/11</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>9/04/11</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>9/05/11</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>399</b>
9/06/11	257	327
9/07/11	252	304
9/08/11	177	225
9/09/11	86	123
9/10/11	41	52
9/11/11	39	49
9/12/11	94	114
9/13/11	74	100
9/14/11	49	63
9/15/11	53	67
9/16/11	34	45
9/17/11	24	30
9/18/11	31	44
9/19/11	50	63
9/20/11	37	40
9/21/11	32	35
9/22/11	28	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>3,308</b>





Taking a moment for the media: Flavia Pansieri of UNV answers a reporter's questions.

#### **Selected Media hits:**

- <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,15360913,00.html>
- <http://www.iewy.com/33154-record-number-of-participants-to-attend-sixty-fourth-annual-United-nations-dpingo-conference-in-bonn-germany-3-5-september.html>
- <http://www.mmdnewswire.com/ions-newly-approved-for-63590.html>
- [http://www.menafn.com/qn\\_news\\_story](http://www.menafn.com/qn_news_story)
- [sp?storyid=%7B1cadb47b-8930-45c3-a57c-5b98492d3465%7D](http://sp?storyid=%7B1cadb47b-8930-45c3-a57c-5b98492d3465%7D)
- <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=104904>

#### **4. DPI/NGO - New York Media Subcommittee efforts:**

The New York team headed by Ms. Perry, the main NGO representative for the Centre for UN Reform Education, (CURE), (an umbrella organization associated with the DPI), forwarded extensive information on the Conference and its website to the Wayne Township Environmental Commission, the League of Women Voters of Wayne, New Jersey, and to members of the CURE Board of Trustees, requesting them to share the information with their own, diverse NGOs.

Ms. Perry wrote two articles for the NGO REPORTER, which is delivered to more than 1,000 NGOs over the Internet. The articles emphasized the important impact that this Conference could have on the Rio+20 preparations; alerted NGOs to the fact that there would be an outcome document on sustainable development as well as a statement on the importance of NGO and civil society participation in helping to attain healthy, sustainable communities. The articles also provided information on the Conference website, and



informed NGOs that it would contain updated information before and during conference, including some live coverage of keynote speakers.

During the Conference both Ms. Perry and Ms. Kuriansky provided editorial support on the media reports written by participating student journalists.

### **Posters**

The Visual Identity, which reflected the link between sustainability and volunteerism, was displayed in posters and all printed materials including signage at the Conference site. Some 500 24 x 36-in. posters in English were distributed globally through UNICs to advertise the Conference. Some 2,000 bags with Conference materials as well as a detailed directory titled “Conference at a Glance,” giving information on the Conference schedule and venues, were printed and distributed to all Conference participants.

The City of Bonn organized 100 poster stalls around town for a period of 10 days as well as six informational screens at the main train station and two large banners at the museum where the Mayor of Bonn hosted a reception for the attendees. Additionally, the city distributed 60 posters around town through partners, at metro stations, etc.

### **Student Journalists Programme**

The Student Journalist Programme underwent further change this year, first by moving it under the Media Subcommittee and making it an integral part of the media outreach. There was also a change in leadership as Bill Hunter of Lehigh University (USA) took over heading the programme ably supported by Ms. Kuriansky and Ms. Perry as well as the Conference Media Coordinator. At the Conference these efforts were enhanced by Kathleen Parrish, of Lafayette College (USA) who directed the newsroom. The student journalists produced more than 30 stories which we placed on the Conference website, the NGO blog and Deutsche Welle’s website. The programme provides a unique perspective on the Conference and certainly attracted a young group to our activities in Bonn. Suggestions for improvement can be found in the recommendation section of this report. (Following is a final report by Dr. Hunter on the outcome produced by this year’s efforts.)

### **Student Programme Outcome**

Nearly 100 students from around the world applied for the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) Student Journalist Programme, an opportunity for budding professionals to provide media coverage for the 64th Annual Conference. From those applicants, 17 were chosen to come to Bonn, Germany. Truly a multinational, multicultural blend, the students represented 11 countries and spoke more than 20 languages.

Bettina Benzinger, a student journalist hailing from the Conference host country, was excited to join the global ranks. “I found myself changing from jeans and t-shirt into serious business clothes, taking a bath in UN-related issues and entering the international world”, she said. “As part of a family of student journalists from around the world including Australia, the United States, Kenya, South Africa, Mauritius and China – can your life become more international?”

Before making the trek to Germany, the student journalists were assigned to produce a story that localised the Conference themes, “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens.” This challenge led to a wide variety of submissions, including some featuring marine life conservation, the documentation of ancient Australian trees, partnerships between European students and African schools, and a company that makes blankets from recycled plastic bottles. Several of these stories are featured at:

<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ngoconference/media/stujour/examples>



While at the Conference, the students were assigned to produce stories on the workshops, plenary sessions, and meetings with key UN officials and representatives of NGOs from their region. The Conference themes were central to each story and provided a backdrop for a wide array of articles.

“Being part of the team of student journalists has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life,” said Litha Mpondwana (South Africa). “The conference was a huge learning experience for me. I saw theories and practices I have only studied and read about in action.”

Each student produced at least one story a day during the three-day conference. Their submissions were either posted on the DPI website <http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ngoconference/media/stujour/sjstories> or on a blog hosted by a group of German NGOs <http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/>.

New to the programme was collaboration between the young journalists and a group of reporters in training for a professional news outlet. Deutsche Welle, Germany’s voice to the world, sent a cohort of trainees from its DW-Akademie to mentor the student journalists. This partnership led to a number of student journalist stories being posted on the Deutsche Welle website <http://training.dw-world.de/ausbildung/blogs/un/>

“It was a good experience for our trainees to work at the UN Conference”, said Deutsche Welle journalist Bernhard Schulenburg. “Together with your student journalists they produced a lot of content”.

With the countless hours in the student journalist newsroom behind them, all have returned home and are working their way through studies onto their first job in the field.

Ruth Moon, an American student journalist, reflected, “As I’m interested in sustainable development, it was also a great chance to get to know some key players in the field. My Bonn experience will be useful in building a solid reporting foundation for future stories”.

### **Media Briefings and Other Conference coverage**

As was done for the last year’s Conference in Australia, two media rooms were set up: one, which would carry all the official press conferences and media encounters and the second, which would serve as an interview/press room for NGO media. The daily media briefings were led by the Desk Officer for Germany Mr. Molfenter with support from the Conference Media Focal Point, while Ms. Stapper, head of the German NGO Media team, was charge of the NGO Media Press Room.

Press releases were issued by the UN press service at important milestones in the Conference planning process and were produced each day of the three-day Conference.

The Conference was very comprehensively covered by two United Nations Information Officers from the UN Headquarters in Geneva, one served as a press officer providing daily coverage of the Conference while the other provided Radio Coverage. Eight press releases in English were produced by the English press officer during the Conference while three, including a backgrounder, were produced by Information Officers in the NGO Relations prior to the Conference. All releases produced at the Conference were re-disseminated to the UNRIC/UNIC/UNIS Europe team as well as by NGO Media.



A UN Radio officer also covered the Conference in English producing three news and features stories as well as five interviews in English, two in French and one each in Arabic, Chinese and Spanish. Interviews were also done in English and French prior to the Conference with the English and French units of UN Radio, promoting the meeting. The DPI/NGO Cluster also generated three press releases, which were disseminated by the UN press service.

In addition to the three press releases as well as a backgrounder prepared for the media prior to the start of the Conference, both international and regional, the media team arranged daily briefings for journalists before the Opening and Closing ceremonies, each Roundtable and many of the workshops. This allowed access for journalists to the main participants and speakers in each of these events. Two press conferences were held: one at the end of the Opening Ceremony and the other just before the close of the Conference, featuring the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Kiyoo Akasaka, and keynote speakers to the Conference. There was also a press conference held by the NGOs just before the close of the Conference at which the Felix Dodds, Chair of the 64th UN DPI/NGO Conference, presented the outcome of the adoption of a Final Declaration.

Following is a list of stories prepared by Patrick Maigua, Radio Producer, Department of Public Information, UN Office Geneva:

- **News story on the DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn**  
**Interview in English** with Kiyoo Akasaka, USG DPI, on the outcome of the DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn
- **French audio clip** of Kiyoo Akasaka, USG DPI, on the outcome of the DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn
- **Tuesday 6 Sept. Interviews that were sent to New York from the UN DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn.**
- **Interview with Volunteer from Mexico. Spanish**  
This is an interview with a volunteer from Mexico Anna Paulina Rosas. She is currently in Germany studying the management of non-profit organizations. The interview questions are in English and the responses in Spanish.
- **Interview with UNIDO DG. English**  
This is an interview with the Director General of UNIDO Kandeh Yumkella on what UNIDO is doing to ensure industries become responsible in their operations. He also talks about the rush for natural resources in Africa and how African governments should respond. He says governments on the continent will have themselves to blame if they do not sign agreements which put the interests of their people first.
- **Interview with UNV Executive Director. English**  
This is an interview with UN Volunteers Executive Director Ms. Flavia Pansieri. She speaks about the role on UN Volunteers in the UN mission of peace and development and what role volunteers play in the attainment of sustainable societies responsive citizens which was the theme of this year's DPI NGO Conference.
- **Interview with Cameroun youth volunteer. English and French**  
This is an interview with a youth volunteer from Cameroun Jean Paul Brice Affana Affana who is involved in a project to identify innovative ways the youth can contribute to the global challenges. He is the coordinator of the Rio 2012 Youth Song World Cup. The project is inviting youth from around the world to compose a song to highlight global issues, challenges and solutions through music.



- **Interview with Moroccan NGO. French and Arabic**

These are interviews in French and Arabic with Farah Cherif d'Ouezzan. She is from a Moroccan NGO Thaqafat Association. She speaks about the role on NGOs in the Arab Spring and how youths in the Arab world can be mobilized to contribute to sustainable societies.

- **Interview with Chinese NGO**

This is an interview with Dr. Frank Lie from an NGO Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation. The NGO is promoting recycling of plastic materials in at least 17 countries worldwide. It has over 70,000 volunteers who are engaged in recycling. The interview is English but the responses are in Chinese.

- **Interview with Daniel Bena** from PepsiCo on how Pepsi is promoting sustainable consumption. He spoke at length on what Pepsi is doing in developing countries to provide clean safe drinking water to the communities that also happen to be the company's customers.

- **Interview with Felix Dodds** on the role NGO's play in sustainable development and whether sustainable development was achievable in developing countries which face numerous developmental challenges.

- **Wednesday 7 Sept**

Wrap-up feature in English from the UN DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn.

## **New Media**

Participation by the press in this year's Conference was moderate and as a result so was this year's press coverage. More interest was generated at the Conference through the Facebook page established for the first time by the NGO Relations and displayed on the Conference website as well as the Twitter and Flickr links, which were overseen by two of our young volunteers and drew a great deal of attention to the Conference over the three-day period. Among the achievements of this coordinated effort between the media team and young volunteers was the fact that the Twitter and Facebook campaigns reached nearly 150,000 people with tweets from hundreds of people.

The NGO Blog also was responsible for attracting people to the activities of the meeting. The public could also view the daily webcast of each day's plenary events and Roundtables.

The Conference also attracted 25 journalists from Germany and Europe, which generated stories for television, radio and print.

This Conference clearly demonstrated the importance of new media in disseminating information and creating interest, especially multi-generational attention to the annual Conference. Some of the volunteers expressed an interest in carrying on both the blog and Facebook as a means of keeping the Conference dialogue going beyond the Bonn.

## **Indirect Follow-up Activities**

On 5 October UNIS Vienna invited 12 youth representatives from different youth organizations in Austria to discuss and receive feedback on International Year of Youth activities and UN youth activities in general. Three of the young representatives who attended had participated in the UN DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn. Their feedback is testimony to one of the areas of success of the Conference. Overall the feedback on the Conference was positive; they noted that youth involvement was seen as an important contribution to the success of the Conference (including the aspect of volunteerism).



## Conclusions

- The media coverage of the Bonn Conference, as predicted, was moderate. One lesson learned is that in difficult saturated media markets we need to come up with a more challenging media strategy very early in the planning process.
- Critical to the success of the media efforts is the need to meet with interested media ahead of time, preferably as early as the first technical mission.
- Early consultations with media professionals in the host country and UNIC are critical to creating an informed and effective Conference Media Strategy.
- Having a number of skilled media resource people in the host country on the Media Subcommittee is invaluable to having a public programme run smoothly and yet dovetail with the overall dissemination efforts to get the widest media coverage possible. Coordination of these efforts is critical to ensuring that all parties are united in their approach throughout the planning process and more particularly during the three-day period of the Conference.
- Having enough material to establish and sustain interest in the Conference website, from some six months in advance of the Conference to its closing session.
- There is a need to ensure that the choice of persons to draft op-eds is interesting enough to catch public attention. For instance, the suggestion to have had Achim Steiner, the head of the United Nations Environment Programme, team up with Gisele Buendchen, a popular German model, might have been more successful to place and draw the media's attention to the Conference and the overall topic of "Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens".

## Suggestions for Improvement

1. There is a need to review the timing of this annual Conference as it goes on the road as it was felt the choice of late August/early September may have affected the lukewarm media reception the Conference received among European client countries. August is usually the quietest month of the year and people are away on vacation.
2. On the Student Journalist Programme: Throughout the planning and work with the student journalists, there was a heavy emphasis and expectation that students would produce news stories about the Conference workshops and plenary. While this is a more scholarly approach, a greater emphasis could have been placed on social media, a topic that students and young people are also very strong at. To do so, a Twitter account should be set up and populated at least one month before the conference, not the day of the Conference, which made it very difficult to attract the necessary followers. Students were reluctant to post to the UN Twitter account because they felt they lacked the necessary mandate and would be speaking on behalf of the UN. Instead, having an NGO media-led Twitter account would have solved this challenge.

Tweeting from the Conference - quotes from speakers, topics at workshops, updates on the declaration progress - could have been given to a student journalist familiar with Twitter at the outset. For instance, the UN photos of the Conference on Flickr were only known about because of Tweets.

In addition to Twitter, using Flickr and linking various Flickr accounts related to the conference is a key strategy that was discovered a bit too late in the case of this conference. Flickr is a useful connector between UN media staff, journalists, NGOs and conference participants.



3. There were challenges to decision making on the NGO media side, with different people taking legal and financial responsibility for the content of the blog other than those who were actually doing the work. This led to multiple challenges in time-sensitive situations that were counterproductive.
4. There are different understandings – especially between generations and cultures – of how social media and the web can be used for event coverage. Efforts to build trust within the team are vitally important so that everyone knows the values of various kinds of media – press releases, web, social media, photos, videos, etc. – and that each gets emphasis. We advise next year’s team to make the most of blog, social media opportunities, emphasizing not only news reporting, but also blogging (with opinion and perspective), Flickr, YouTube/Vimeo, Twitter and Facebook. The NGO Media team recommends investing time and money in preparing a well-designed blog/website so that it can be easily promoted.

(A detailed list of Conference coverage can be found in Annex VII)

### **Interactive Media Report**

The official, comprehensive website of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference was launched under the URL [www.un.org/dpingoconference](http://www.un.org/dpingoconference) on Monday, 16 May. Prior to the official Conference website being launched, the NGO Relations website carried up-to-date information on the planning activities of the Conference. The Conference website was established earlier than in previous years and was essential in getting out information on travel, visa and registration to potential participants. This early launch was a result of the lessons learned from earlier conferences.

The website was updated regularly with new information about the Conference for NGOs and other civil society actors worldwide to interest them in attending. Initially, the website opened with practical information about the Conference, including the most important travel and visa information. This was followed by more important content on the Conference itself including the programme and biographies of speakers participating in the Conference.

During the three days of the Conference the website featured up-to-date information on the detailed programme of the Conference and the various events that took place each day. This information was updated hourly. The website also provided information on keynote speakers including those participating in the Roundtables and the Workshops. All media coverage was updated incorporating all articles and media contributions from both the main stream and NGO media as well as coverage of the other related events. All documents including press releases whether emanating from the official Press Officer or those of the blog administrators, as well as statements from key participants were uploaded and updated in real time.



## Annex IV:

# Three Lunchtime Presentations Enhance Delegates' Understanding of Sustainability, Volunteerism

## UNEP: Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) presentation began with a discussion of the future of a green economy. Sheng Fulai of the UNEP Economics and Trade Branch in Geneva, who moderated the session, pointed out that the current economic model is not sustainable and requires a shift in the way global economies grow. According to Mr. Fulai, with macroeconomics, growth is driven by investment, consumption, trade and government spending. The heart of the matter then lies with changing the aim of growth (consumption) as well as the way we grow (investment). He indicated that it is imperative to strengthen a green economy model in order to generate viable social benefits and environmental sustainability on a global scale.

**Laura Vehicken** of the International Trade Union Confederation began the discussion by supporting job creation through investment in sustainable development and the green economy. As jobs are created, people must be offered training and transitional support, and no one should be left behind in the wake of progress.

Next, **Aron Belinky**, Vitae Civilis Institute of Brazil, expressed concern regarding the green economy as it pertains to the upcoming Rio+20 Conference. Threats to the green economy could result from apprehension about misinformation, impact, risks of mercantilization and interest levels, specifically regarding investments. Belinky advocates the importance of translating green ideas into tangible economic language resulting in economic action.

The third panelist, **Batchika Robert**, Environmental Management for Live River Improvement (Uganda), cited three main components to green economic development: reducing



Flavia Pansieri of UNV leads a discussion on volunteerism during the lunchtime programme on volunteerism.





Discussing the green economy in the context of sustainable development were, from left, Sheng Fulai, Head of Research and Partnerships Unit, UNEP; Aron Belinky, International Processes Coordinator, Vitae Civilis Institute, Brazil; Lora Verheecke, Policy Assistant, OHS-Environment-Sustainable Development, International Trade Union Confederation; Oliver Greenfield, Convenor, Green Economy Coalition; and Robert Bakiika, Deputy Executive Director, Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement Bwaise.

environmental risks, social wellbeing and social equity. Governments in developing countries are often unable to complete the sustainable development process on their own, specifically due to financing. There is a need to determine how countries such as Uganda can utilize their existing budget, engage the private sector domestically and internationally, and engage multilateral development banks in order to move forward with green development.

Finally, **Oliver Greenfield** of the Green Economy Coalition focused on the need for multilateral action to ensure success in Rio. Sustainable development has good intentions; however, there is a failure in governance and a need to look beyond GDP to successfully implement a green economy. The green economy should articulate sustainable development in the language of policy makers through clear and collective action in Rio.

Following the panel, NGO representatives discussed local development efforts in addition to raising questions on implementation of the green economy, the fragmentation of the NGO community, attracting investment, the role of youth and education. One NGO representative from Togo even went as far as accusing the UN, specifically the FAO, of encouraging land grabs in Africa and depriving the African people of their land. He questioned how the UN expects to achieve sustainable development while promoting these practices. Many of these questions were left unanswered as the programme was designed as a dialogue to engage and discuss issues in anticipation of Rio.

## UNDP Human Development Report – Looking for Solutions

In his presentation of the impending launch of the Human Development Report, **Bill Orme**, Chief of Communications and Publishing for the UN Development Programme Human Development Report office, appealed to the participants of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, to try to come up with solutions to the issue of development sustainability.

Beginning with an explanation of the Human Development Index, Mr. Orme illustrated the factors that go into the yearly report, including health and educational indicators, as well as adjusted indices for gender and inequality, all of which surpass the income indicators provided by GDP.



He stated that although for the past 40 years there has been a steady increase in the human development indices of states throughout the world, this trend will not be able to continue due to the lack of sustainability that the human development process is based on.

While states in the past have achieved great strides in human development, they have used a system based upon environmental degradation and the use of non-renewable resources, something that developing countries in the next 40 years cannot rely upon. With the overall risks posed by climate change and the reliance on carbon-based development, the challenges facing developing countries in the future are extremely overwhelming, and will impede the development process.

As his colleague, **Jens Wandel**, Director, UNDP Regional Center for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Bratislava, Slovakia, stated, there is no path for these countries to follow in implementing sustainable human development practices. Mr. Wandel insists that there need to be complex solutions for the complex problems facing these states, and that these solutions need to be developed in ways that do not rely on resource intensity.

Mr. Orme and Mr. Wandel concurred that these remedies need to be grassroots oriented and come from civil society along with cooperation and policy making that bridge multiple governmental ministries, and address environmental, business and development issues simultaneously.

### Civil Society Discusses Four Pillars of Volunteerism at UNV Session

The UN Volunteers session, “Civil Society Voices: Giving Meaning to the International Year of Volunteers +10”, was an opportunity for participants to hear **Flavia Pansieri**, Executive Coordinator, UNV, and **Naheed Haque**, Deputy Executive Coordinator, UNV, speaking together for the first time to volunteers. Set in a relaxed atmosphere, the interactive session focused on UN Volunteers’ personal interpretations of the four pillars conceived for the

William Orme of UNDP discusses the Human Development Report during the lunchtime session.



commemoration of the International Year of Volunteers +10. The pillars are: promote the values of volunteering, recognize the positive impacts of volunteering, build and reinforce volunteering networking, and facilitate people's contributions to peace and the MDGs through volunteering. Volunteers related the meaning of each pillar to their activities and gave the NGO audience a good grasp of what volunteering and the UNV experience are all about.

The casual atmosphere focused on a down-to-earth, participatory format that allowed the participants to engage and share best practices with the UNV staff and their volunteer-colleagues. The NGOs were given a platform to ask detailed questions of the officials of UNV as well as hear from people participating in UNV programmes, and through this were able to take away the message of the importance of volunteerism. This event has spawned, through Ms. Pansieri's call to action, an online community portal where volunteers and NGOs can post the steps they are taking towards sustainable development that will highlight the importance of volunteers in this effort. Additionally, the observations expressed by civil society will be incorporated in documents that will be presented to the General Assembly Summit on IYV+10 that is to take place in December 2011.



## Annex V:

### Public and Side Events Enrich Conference

Some 20 side and public events, organized by the NGO Focal Group of Germany, made major contributions to the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference's titled "Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens".

The German NGO Focal Group and, specifically, the Exhibits and Events Subcommittee displayed creativity and commitment in devising the wide range of events. With the support of many non-governmental organizations, the co-chairs developed an impressive range of activities that complemented the official Conference programme, the plenary sessions, Roundtables and 38 NGO workshops.

Beginning the day before the Conference opened, the side events programme offered participants from near and far as well as local residents a series of informational opportunities including an organic city-farm walk that specifically targeted youth, a guided tour of a local art museum, and a tour highlighting sustainability activities of the city.

The highlight of the side event programme was the Town Hall meeting on Friday, 2 September, which was co-organized by the City of Bonn, the NGO Focal Group, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) with COLABORA and supported by 16 leading German NGOs.

The meeting was opened by the Lord Mayor of Bonn Jürgen Nimptsch, while UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Kiyoo Akasaka and Executive Coordinator of UN Volunteers Flavia Pansieri helped to connect the dots between this event and the Conference.

Titled **"Our Daily Rice: Possible for All! - But How?"**, the Town Hall meeting featured three outstanding expert speakers: Alternative Nobel Laureate Vandana Shiva, UNEP Director



Felix Finkbeiner, the young environmentalist who launched the "Stop Talking - Start Planting" campaign, acts out his words with Bonn's Lord Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch during the tree planting ceremony before the opening of the Conference.



Achim Steiner and World Food Laureate Hans Herron. They fascinated the audience of about 400 people in the Brückenforum with their analysis of sustainable development while thematically bridging to the Conference.

An engaging and lively debate followed their presentations that included the broad participation of the audience. Local and national media was also present. Most of the partner organizations had set up information stands that provided an informative and lively setting for the event, which also featured pleasant socialising and beneficial networking.

World-renowned glass musician Sascha Reckert with his Verophone, performing a composition by Rhet Brewer, set the right tone at the beginning of the evening. The Vietnamese-German artist Dao Droste, with her beautiful bronze torso statue from her series “Natura et Hominem”, added a nice accent to the stage. Both artists’ works were also featured at the Conference and thus further bridged the two events.

A festive tree planting ceremony and plaque unveiling left a lasting memory of the event in Bonn, and was backdrop for 64 blue “one world” balloons – one for each UN DPI/NGO Conference – that floated into the crystal blue sky. Germany’s most prominent and unchallenged record-setting tree planter, Felix Finkbeiner, was the ceremony’s inspiration for future work. The 13-year-old environmentalist launched a worldwide campaign known as “Stop Talking – Start Planting”. In Germany alone, his initiative has already planted 1 million trees. It is spreading with local groups and tree ambassadors who are carrying saplings all over the world.

Another highlight was the Reconciliation Award Ceremony sponsored by the S.E.R. Foundation.

Additionally, each morning the conference delegates had an opportunity to have joint interreligious reflections and meditations.

Popular for youth were not only the breakfast sessions each morning but also the two pub-crawls.

The side events connected the UN DPI/NGO Conference to the City of Bonn and were valuable and complementary additions to the international gathering.

*Bernward Geier, German NGO Focal Group coordinator*



Bernward Geier, coordinator of the NGO Focal Group in Germany, describes the art exhibit at the Conference.



## Annex VI:

# UNICs Help Shed Light on 64th UN DPI/NGO Conference

## UNIC Moscow

UNIC Moscow hosted on Tuesday, 21 June, a briefing by Andrei Abramov, Head of NGO Branch, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, DESA, for members of the Russian civil society, which was suggested by the Russian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Federation of Peace and Reconciliation, a local NGO.

The event, attended by about 40 NGOs working in different areas of social life, turned out to be very substantive and meaningful. Undoubtedly, it contributed to strengthening already close ties between this UNIC and Russian civil society.

In his presentation, Mr. Abramov provided an overview of UN-civil society relations. While stressing that the UN is becoming a more outward-looking organization, he described steps taken recently to increase the participation of NGOs in its different bodies and to improve the UN's own institutional capacity for NGO engagement. His remarks covered not only the process of granting consultative status with the ECOSOC to civil society actors, but also, more broadly, ways for NGOs to collaborate with the UN system. Mr. Abramov also provided some unavoidable limitations on NGO activity in this sphere given the UN's intergovernmental nature.

In the Q&A session that followed, the participants exchanged a wide variety of views and information. Among other things, Mr. Abramov spoke about the forms of possible NGO interaction with the UN: information-sharing, research and analysis, advocacy, operational activities. He was asked by participants to comment on NGOs' involvement in public diplomacy in the area of peace and security; UN views on problems faced by the youth globally (unemployment, drug addiction, reproductive health); the UN Alliance of Civilizations initiative and its activities to promote tolerance and to combat intolerance and phobias in the world. Several activists inquired about ways to further involve NGOs in the decision-making process in various parts of the UN system.

Mr. Abramov concluded that NGOs can and should make a greater contribution in terms of identifying and launching fresh ideas that would guide UN activities in the near future, in particular, a set of far-reaching concepts to replace the MDGs doctrine after 2015.

Also, UNIC Moscow took advantage of this session to circulate among the attendees a special bulletin on the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference that would be held in Bonn. Russian NGOs were urged to consider participating in this forum in order to strengthen their outreach, propagate their ideas and find new partners beyond this country's borders.

Alexandre Gorelik, Director,  
UNIC Moscow

## UNIC Prague

About 30 NGOs attended a seminar organized by UNIC Prague, The Czech Republic, to promote association with DPI/NGO and the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn. The main issues regarding association with the UN (DPI, ECOSOC and other UN



agencies) were presented by UNIC Officer in Charge as well as information about the upcoming UN DPI/NGO Conference. Also outlined was UNIC collaboration with local NGOs and partnerships on projects. An information kit including DPI/NGO Facts Sheets was disseminated to the participants. Related materials including links to the UN DPI/NGO Conference are posted on UNIC's website.

As for the UN DPI/NGO Conference, NGOs were mostly interested in whether an association status was needed to attend and what were the costs associated with the event. For many NGOs from the region, travel budget is a major issue. A number of NGOs indicated that they were interested in associating with the UN and attending the Conference in Bonn.

The issue of sustainable development and the Rio+20 Conference were highlighted during the seminar.

<http://www.osn.cz/zpravodajstvi/zpravy/zprava.php?id=1695>

## UNIC Cameroon

The United Nations Information Centre in Yaounde, Cameroon, hosted a briefing for regional NGOs in preparation for the 64th Annual DPI/NGO Conference in conjunction with UNDP. The briefing was held in Libreville on 4 July and prepared NGOs for the Conference which was held in Bonn, Germany.

## CINU, Dakar (UNIC Dakar)

### 1. Introduction

Le Réseau Droits Humains au Sénégal (REDHUS), a organisé, le 17 août 2011, une journée de partage préparatoire à la 64<sup>ème</sup> Conférence annuelle du Département de l'Information et de la Communication de l'Organisation des Nations Unies (DPI), en collaboration avec les Organisation Non Gouvernementales (ONG). Le REDHUS a été appuyé encore dans cet exercice qui en était à sa 17<sup>ème</sup> édition par le Centre d'Information des Nations Unies (CINU) à Dakar.

L'objectif de la journée de partage qui s'est déroulée dans la salle de conférence du CINU est de préparer les ONG du Sénégal à participer activement à la Conférence Annuelle ONG/DPI qui se déroulera, du 3 au 5 septembre 2011, à Bonn, en Allemagne sur le thème de la responsabilité des citoyens pour un développement durable de leurs communautés : « **Sustainable societies; responsive citizens** ».

Dans son mot de bienvenue, au nom du Directeur et du personnel du CINU-Dakar, Monsieur Alioune Loum, Chargé du Bureau a remercié et félicité le REDHUS et les ONG partenaires pour leur fidélité car l'exercice était en sa quatorzième édition. M. Loum a rappelé les différentes répliques qui ont amené le CINU et ses partenaires à sillonner une partie du Sénégal. C'est ainsi qu'outre Dakar, la réplique fut organisée à Kaolack, à Thiès et à Touba. Il a salué aussi la participation du REDHUS à des conférences annuelles notamment en New York où les délégués du réseau ont eu à défendre crânement les positions des ONG sénégalaises et africaines. A ceux qui auront la chance d'aller à Bonn, M. Loum a demandé de se battre pour voir se réaliser un second vœux des ONG du Sénégal de voir la conférence organisée en Afrique. Le premier souhait exprimé lors des précédentes répliques fut de voir la conférence annuelle organisée, hors de New York. En effet, depuis 2008, les ONG se sont déplacées en Europe, en Amérique Latine et en Océanie.



La Présidente du REDHUS, Madame Mbeinda Lamotte Diop a rappelé les hauts moments de partage sur les différents thèmes proposés par la conférence annuelle allant de la Paix à l'Environnement en passant par le Désarmement, les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (OMD), les Droits de l'Homme, la Sécurité humaine, le Partenariat, etc. Mme Lamotte a mis l'accent sur le manque de moyens des ONG qui cependant ne les a pas poussé à baisser les bras. Elle a salué la coopération fructueuse entre le REDHUS et le CINU qui, à la hauteur de ses moyens, a toujours soutenu les ONG dans leurs programmes de célébration (Journée des Droits de l'Homme, Journée Mondiale de l'Environnement, etc.) et dans le cadre de l'organisation de la réplique dont le succès a dépassé les frontières du Sénégal.

## 2. Déroulement des travaux

Les échanges qui ont duré environ quatre heures sous la forme d'une plénière ont porté sur les économies vertes pour éradiquer la pauvreté, sur le rôle de la Société civile : engagement civique, action volontaire pour atteindre le développement durable et sur la participation citoyenne à la gouvernance pour atteindre le développement durable. Les thèmes ont été introduits par Monsieur Bocar Baddji, Président de l'Association pour l'Aide au Développement des Activités Rurales au Sénégal et au Sahel (ADARS) et par Mme Lamotte en, sa qualité de Présidente du Collectif des Enseignantes pour l'Education Environnementale (COSAPER).

Le Président de l'ADARS a fait de larges éclairages sur l'Economie verte ainsi que sur les opportunités offertes par cette nouvelle donne pour lutter contre la pauvreté en gains de marchés et autres offres d'emplois mettant l'accent sur les principes de cette économie. Parmi ces principes figurent, les respects et l'instauration de l'Environnement, la reconnaissance des apports des savoirs locaux souvent défavorisés et le développement des circuits courts notamment au plan alimentaire. Quant à Mme Lamotte, elle a insisté sur la position des femmes par rapport à l'Economie verte insistant sur celle du grand groupe de femmes en prévision de la prochaine conférence sur le développement durable, en 2012, à Rio de Janeiro, au Brésil (Rio+20). La responsabilité citoyenne par rapport du développement durable des communautés a été bien ressortie durant les débats très enrichissants qui ont suivi les deux contributions.

## 3. Conclusions

A l'endroit de la conférence annuelle et comme contribution des ONG du Sénégal, la journée de partage sur le thème de la 64ème Conférence annuelle DPI/ONG recommande d'une façon générale que :

- les enjeux de l'Economie verte qui dépassent largement ceux économiques soient revus car constituant, si l'on y prend pas garde, une menace pour la survie même de l'Humanité,
- les libre et égal accès pour les présentes et futures générations aux produits naturels tels que l'eau, la terre et l'énergie ainsi que la protection de l'Environnement soient reconnus comme des Droits de l'Homme,
- l'Education formelle ou informelle envers le respect et la protection de l'Environnement notamment à l'endroit des jeunes et des femmes soit une priorité partout à travers le monde,
- le respect de la culture et de la diversité ethnique soit des plus effectifs pour que s'instaure des alliances dans les différentes civilisations qui ont des trésors communs à partager,
- l'impact qu'ont les moyens traditionnels et nouveaux d'information et de communication (radios, TV, internet -médias sociaux, presse écrite) soient mis à profit pour sensibiliser les populations sur leurs droits et devoirs envers la planète Terre.



De façon spécifique, les ONG du Sénégal recommandent aussi dans les domaines qui suivent :

- **Changement de comportement** : d'agir en tout lieu et en tout temps comme quoi la Terre ne nous appartient pas, c'est un trésor que nous devons léguer en très bon état aux générations futures ; revoir nos trains de vie afin de ne pas nuire et ce pour des intérêts égoïstes, la vie des autres,
- **Engagement civique** : que tout citoyen, à quelque niveau qu'il se situe se sente responsable et reconnaît que sa participation est nécessaire au développement de sa localité et que par des actions individuelles ou collectives doit participer à des activités de sensibilisation, de reboisement, de lutte contre la pollution, contre la désertification, etc.
- **Volontariat** : que les ONG et la Société civile soient en première ligne pour demander aux Etats et à la communauté internationale de s'investir et de façon active dans la protection de l'Environnement pour un développement durable des pays et des communautés, de mettre en avant leurs systèmes d'alerte et de veille pour tout le temps sensibiliser les populations sur les menaces qui les guettent en agressant constamment la nature pour des raisons diverses : agricoles, exploitation de ressources, etc.

Les participants souhaitent que dans le programme d'action qui va sanctionner la conférence annuelle qu'il soit tenu en compte que :

- L'économie verte est vitale pour tout le monde (pays pauvres comme pays riches) pour sauver la Planète Terre et qu'à cet effet, la production et la consommation doivent être équilibrées et que des échéances devraient être fixés et respectés pour la réalisation d'un développement durable (2012-2031), en pensant à Rio+20.
- L'accès universel à l'Eau et à l'Energie doivent être effectifs et ce dans les dix années à venir.
- La déforestation et l'exploitation abusive des produits halieutiques notamment du poisson doivent faire l'objet davantage d'activités d'envergure de sensibilisation pour conserver le reste des forêts et des stocks de poissons et en essayant de produire encore plus,
- L'urbanisation doit être normalisée de même que l'Agriculture doit être repensée pour une production équilibrée mettant l'accent les besoins vitaux et respectant l'environnement,
- Au niveau national, faire de l'Environnement un élément transversal à l'image du Genre afin de mobiliser toutes les capacités et de n'ignorer aucun domaine d'activités.
- A cet effet, les ONG du Sénégal souhaiteraient partager, lors de la conférence annuelle, à Bonn, en Allemagne, des expériences en cours de leur pays notamment le Plan Décennal de consommation durable, la Grande Muraille Verte allant de Dakar à Djibouti, la Convention nationale sur le changement climatique, le Plan National d'Education au développement durable, le Plan National pour le développement durable, l'Agence Nationale des Eco-villages.



#### **4. Remerciements.**

La réunion a eu des pensées pieuses et a prié pour feu le Président Fondateur de l'Institut Islamique Africain Américain de Médina Baye (IIAA), le Vénéré Cheikh Imam Assane Cissé avec qui le REDHUS a eu à cheminer, de 1997 à 2009. Elle a adressé ses vives félicitations au CINU-Dakar, au DPI et au Chargé de l'Information du CINU-Dakar, Monsieur Alioune Loum qui, à la fin du mois d'août 2011 va quitter l'ONU pour faire valoir ses droits à une retraite anticipée.



## Annex VII:

# Coverage of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference

## United Nations Press Releases and Media Advisories

“As Sixty-fourth DPI/NGO Conference Concludes, Speakers Emphasize Need for Volunteers to Build Sustainable Societies”

6 September 2011, New York

- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/ngo740.doc.htm>
- <http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2011/unisinf426.html>

“Citizens Must Connect Dots between Local, Global Concerns to Advance Sustainable Development, Say Panellists in DPI/NGO Conference Round Table”

6 September 2011, New York

- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/ngo736.doc.htm>

“Green Economy Not Just about Environment, Say Panellists at DPI/NGO Conference; It Can Help Eradicate Poverty, Advance Social Justice”

6 September 2011, New York

- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/ngo734.doc.htm>

“Little Actions Can Make a Big Difference; Your Hard Work Adds up, Round Table Speakers Tell Volunteers at Sixty-fourth DPI/NGO Conference”

6 September 2011, New York

- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/ngo735.doc.htm>

“Record Number of Participants to Attend Sixty-Fourth Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn, Germany, 3-5 September”

2 September 2011, New York

- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/ngo730.doc.htm>

“Steiner addresses the 64th Annual UN DPI NGOs Conference”

3 September 2011, Bonn

- <http://www.unep.org/newscentre/default.aspx?DocumentID=2654&ArticleID=8849>

“Sustainable Development and Volunteerism Take Centre Stage as NGOs Prepare for 64th Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn”

8 August 2011, New York

- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/ngo728.doc.htm>

“Sustainable Production, Consumption Practices Key to Combating Environmental Degradation, Inequality, Say Round Table Participants”

5 September 2011, New York

- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/ngo732.doc.htm>
- <http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2011/unisinf425.html>



“Sustainable Societies Need Responsive Citizens, Secretary-General Says in Message to Sixty-Fourth Annual DPI/NGO Conference”

6 September 2011, New York

- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sgsm13773.doc.htm>

“Time for Everyone to Commit, Encourage, Volunteer, Says Secretary-General in Message to Sixty-fourth DPI/NGO Conference”

6 September 2011, New York

- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sgsm13774.doc.htm>

“We Must Harness Volunteer Spirit in Service of Planet, Secretary-General Says as Sixty-fourth Annual DPI/NGO Conference Opens in Bonn”

5 September 2011, New York

- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/ngo731.doc.htm>
- <http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2011/unisinf424.html>
- <http://www.humanitariannews.org/20110906/we-must-harness-volunteer-spirit-service-planet-secretary-general-says-sixty-fourth-annual->

## Press Conferences

“Press Conference by Under-Secretary-General following Opening Session of Sixty-fourth Annual DPI/NGO Conference”

3 September 2011, Bonn

- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/ngo733.doc.htm>

“Press Conference by Under-Secretary-General on Final Day of Sixty-fourth Annual DPI/NGO Conference”

6 September 2011, Bonn

- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/ngo737.doc.htm>

“Press Conference on Upcoming DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn”

26 August 2011, New York

- [http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2011/110826\\_DPINGO.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2011/110826_DPINGO.doc.htm)

“64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference - Press Conference”

26 August 2011

- <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/08/press-conference-64th-annual-un-dpingo-conference.html>

## UN Media Outlets

### UN News Service

“UN-NGO forum urges linking sustainable development with public engagement”

5 September 2011, New York

- <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39455&Cr=sustainable+development%20&Cr1=&Kw1=ngo&Kw2=conference&Kw3=dpi>



“UN-NGO forum to focus on sustainable development and volunteerism”

26 August 2011, New York

- <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39393&Cr=sustainable+development&Cr1=>
- <http://www.nieuwsbank.nl/en/2011/08/26/VO11.htm>
- <http://www.nieuwsbank.nl/en/2011/08/26/VO11.htm>
- <http://www.newdesignworld.com/press/story/407342>

## UN Radio

“Civil society calls for sustainable development”

5 September 2011

- <http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2011/09/civil-society-calls-for-sustainable-development/>

“Society without ‘responsive citizens’ not sustainable”

7 September 2011

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“Sustainable development plea from NGOs”

5 September 2011

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“The importance of volunteerism in sustainable development”

26 August 2011

- <http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2011/08/dpingo-conference-focuses-on-importance-of-volunteerism-in-sustainable-development/>

## Other

“UNDPI-NGO conference ‘Sustainable Societies: Responsive Citizens’ declared ‘success’”

9 September 2011. UNV

- <http://www.unv.org/en/news-resources/news/doc/undpi-ngo-conference-sustainable-societies.html>

“64th DPI/NGO Conference adopts Declaration for Rio+20”

12 September 2011. UN-NGLS

- <http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article3561>

## Mainstream Media Outlets

### Press Releases

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6 September 2011. NGO UN Conference Blog

- <http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=1349>



“Draft Declaration Available”

3 September 2011. NGO UN Conference Blog

- <http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=898>

“NGOs Pose Strategies and Challenges to Achieving Sustainable Development as DPI/NGO Conference Continues”

4 September 2011. NGO UN Conference Blog

- <http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=1093>

“Planting Trees and Playing Music - NGOs Offer Creative Take on UN Conference on Sustainability”

31 August 2011. NGO UN Conference Blog

- <http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=846>
- <http://bonner-presseblog.de/2011/08/30/planting-trees-and-playing-music/>

“Sustainable Development and Volunteerism Take Centre Stage as NGOs Prepare for 64th Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn”

10 August 2011. NGO UN Conference Blog

- <http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=688>
- <http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2011/unisinf422.html>

“Young Organics Connect, Inspire and Act”

19 August 2011. NGO UN Conference Blog

- <http://www.ngo-un-conference-blog.org/?p=760>

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8 September 2011 - Uploaded by Tzushisg

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kO1sz65MKY0>

“DPI-NGO for conference - Bonn 3-5 September 2011”

3 September 2011 - Uploaded by UNV

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrfRzd1f6mQ&feature=related>

“UN DPI/ NGO Conference 2011 - Opening Ceremony”

4 September 2011 - Uploaded by 10000 Stories

- <http://vimeo.com/28570139>

“UN DPI NGO Opening Night Reception Bonn 2011”

4 September 2011 - Uploaded by Nejeed

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch-fyCmhyMo&feature=related>

“64th UN/DPI NGO Conference - IFOAM Introduction “

19 July 2011 - Uploaded by IFOAM

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsYdiFQaKyk>



“64th UN/DPI NGO Conference - Introduction by Bernward Geier”  
25 July 2011 - Uploaded by IFOAM

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARmMjnAGhnw&feature=related>

## Online

“A Call To Commitment - A Roadmap to Rio+20”  
5 September 2011. Deutsche Welle

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“Annual UN DPI/NGO conference to focus on sustainable development, importance of volunteerism”  
27 August 2011. Xinhuanet

- [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-08/27/c\\_131077656.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-08/27/c_131077656.htm)

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“Consultation session: Emerging challenges in sustainable development”  
13 September 2011. Star Tribune

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15 September 2011. Express Tribune

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- <http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/who-we-are/news/post/172-dpingo-conference-the-planet-is-in-our-hands--for-better-or-for-worse>

“Felix Dodds and Preparing for Earth Summit 2012”  
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- [http://earthsummit2012.blogspot.com/2011\\_05\\_01\\_archive.html](http://earthsummit2012.blogspot.com/2011_05_01_archive.html)

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“National consultation to make recommendations to Rio+20”  
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2 September 2011. Deutsche Welle

- <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,15360913,00.html>



“NGOs Must Play Key Role in Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development”

26 August 2011. IPS

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12 September 2011. Dawn

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15 September 2011. The News

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28 August 2011. Mobile Activist

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“The long road to Rio”

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25 August 2011

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13 September 2011. ANS

- <http://www.infoans.org/1.asp?sez=1&sotsez=13&doc=6924&lingua=2>

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14 September 2011. Dawn

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“64th Annual DPI/NGO Conference in Bonn – Presentation Perspective”

13 September, 2011. International Presentation Association

- <http://internationalpresentationassociation.org/2011/09/64th-annual-dpingo-conference-in-bonn-presentation-perspective/>

“64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference - Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens”

20 April 2011. UN JPO Network

- <http://jpo-network.org/event/64th-annual-un-dpingo-conference-sustainable-societies-responsive-citizens>

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2 September 2011. Earth System Governance

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27 August 2011. EuroNGOs

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26 August 2011. The Access Initiative

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International Federation for Home Economics

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5 September 2011. World Future Council

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6 September 2011. Environmental Civil Society Voice

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6 September 2011. Human Impacts Institute

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7 September 2011. Fair Trade International

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- <http://www.fundsforngos.org/conferences/sixtyfourth-dpingo-conference-focus-sustainable-development-volunteerism/>

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22 August 2011. Sustainable Development Grants

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- Charles Hitchcock
- Jeffery Huffines
- Carol Price Husten
- C.M. Jadwat
- Chung-Ja Jadwat
- Sherill Kazan
- Joan Kirby
- Judy Lerner
- Allan Levy
- Joan Levy
- Kristopher Martin
- Marilyn Mehr
- Janet Milliken
- Judith Mitchell
- Angel Moix
- Joanne Murphy
- Ann Nicol
- Barbara O'Brien
- Constance Peak
- Michele Peppers
- Estelle Perry
- Eva Richter
- Joanne Robinson
- Hiro Sakurai
- Janet Salazar
- Jackie Shapiro



- Holly Shaw
- Elisabeth Shuman
- Roberta Siegel
- Alice & David Siegel
- Renee Solomon
- Janet Stovin
- Christopher Udry
- Michaela Walsh
- Cora Weiss
- Catherine White
- Charles Whitmer
- Monica & David Willard

### **Town Hall Meeting**

- IFOAM
- City of Bonn
- European Union - European Regional Development Fund
- Minister for Federal Affairs, Europe and the Media of North Rhine - Westphalia
- VEN (Verein zur Erhaltung der Nutzpflanzenvielfalt).
- Bonn International Model UN (BIMUN)
- S.E.R. Foundation
- BUND (Friends of the Earth)
- World Future Council
- Centre for Development Research, University of Bonn
- Die Verbraucher Initiative
- Slow Food Bergisches Land und Bonn
- Fairtrade Deutschland
- Terre des Hommes
- ADRA
- Oiko Credit
- UN Volunteers



## Annex X:

# Conference Participants Survey Report

## Executive Summary

The 2011 UN DPI/NGO Conference: Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens attracted 1,008 participants representing 81 countries. A majority of representatives, 81 per cent<sup>1</sup>, came from developed countries, largely due to the Conference's location in Germany. Twenty-one per cent of the participants responded to a survey about their Conference experience. A majority of the survey respondents reported that their NGO had been active in promoting the Conference's theme in the six months prior. Overall, participants rated the Conference as useful: the average usefulness rating for this year's roundtable sessions and workshops were 4.0 and 4.2, respectively, on a 5-point scale where 1 = not useful at all and 5 = very useful. The educational and professional aspect of the Conference that rated highest was *Networking time and opportunities with other NGOs* with a 4.2 satisfaction rating. The 2011 Conference received higher ratings than 2010 in terms of satisfaction with the conference's registration process and overall organization as well as usefulness of the roundtables.

## Introduction

The 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference was held in Bonn, Germany, from 3-5 September 2011. The Conference was attended by 1,008 participants, representing 300 NGOs hailing from 81 countries. Attendance was lower this year compared to last where 1,731 met in Melbourne, Australia.

Overall, there were 34 developed countries and 47 different developing countries represented at the Conference. The majority of participants, 81 per cent, were from developed countries; 301 of participants alone were from Germany. Representatives from developing countries accounted for 19 per cent of the participants.

## 2011 Survey Findings

A survey was distributed to participants in print during the Conference and sent online to 853 participants after the Conference. In total, 214 participants filled out the survey, for a response rate of 21 per cent. This year's response rate was lower than the 35 per cent response rate received in 2010.

## Usefulness of the Conference

Survey respondents were asked to rate the usefulness of various aspects of the Conference. *Networking time and opportunities with other NGOs* received high marks with 78 per cent of respondents agreeing it was "very useful" or "useful" for the work of their NGOs, with an average rating of 4.2 on a 5-point scale.

The graph below illustrates the usefulness of levels of varying aspects of the Conference:

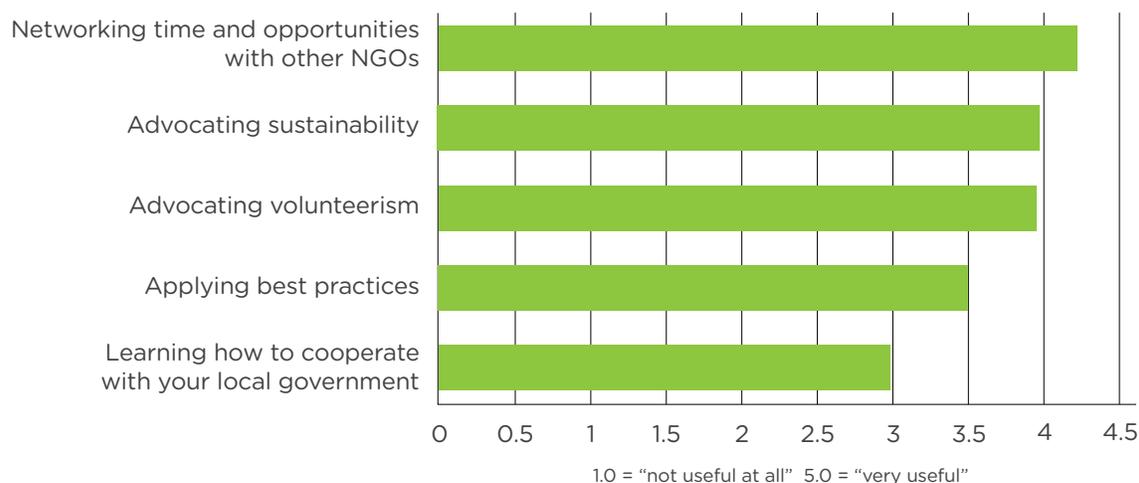
A plurality of respondents said the Conference was useful with regard to *Advocating sustainability and Advocating volunteerism*, each with 68 per cent – a 3.9 usefulness rating.

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<sup>1</sup> Percentage is based on the number of participants (903) who were officially registered and specified country of origin.



### Usefulness of the 64th Annual DPI/NGO Conference in terms of:



The usefulness of *Identifying common problems faced by NGOs* increased with 56 per cent, as compared to 47 per cent in 2010. Furthermore, the usefulness of *Applying best practices* to the work of participants’ NGOs also increased from 41 per cent in 2010 to 52 per cent in 2011. Thirty-two per cent rated *Learning to cooperate with your local governments* as useful, an increase from 27 per cent in 2009.

### Usefulness of Roundtables

In addition to the workshops, four roundtables were held during the Conference. The two substantive sessions that focused on the importance of civic and citizen engagement towards achieving sustainability – “Role of Civil Society in a Fast-changing World” and “Sustainable Development Governance Issues from Local to Global” – received the highest average ratings of 4.1 each. Both the Opening and Closing Sessions were well-liked, with each also receiving a 4.1 rating. The roundtables discussing sustainable consumption and production as well as a green economy – “Shaping Sustainable Lifestyles and Livelihoods” and “Green Economy and Poverty Eradication” – received somewhat lower rating with 3.9 and 3.8, respectively.

The overall usefulness rating for this year’s roundtables was 4.0, an increase as compared to 3.8 in 2010.

2011 Roundtable Session	Average Usefulness Rating
Opening Session	4.1
Role of Civil Society in a Fast-changing World	4.1
Sustainable Development Governance Issues from Local to Global	4.1
Closing Session	4.1
Shaping Sustainable Lifestyles and Livelihoods	3.9
Green Economy and Poverty Eradication	3.8



## Usefulness of Workshops

This year's Conference offered a total of 37 workshops, less than the 55 workshops offered in 2010 and the 24 workshops offered in 2009. A majority of respondents, 77 per cent, rated the workshops as "very useful" or "useful". This represents an increase from the 74 per cent usefulness rating in 2010. The 2009 workshops also received a 77 per cent usefulness rating.

When asked about the number of workshops offered during the Conference, most respondents, or 67 per cent, felt the number was just right compared to 61 per cent in 2010. About 26 per cent thought there were too many workshops while fewer, or 20 per cent, thought there were too many in 2010. Conversely, 7 per cent indicated there were too few. This represents a decrease from 10 per cent the previous year.

## Usefulness of Side Events

Survey respondents were asked to rate the usefulness of the side events offered, including regional discussions, lunch-time presentations and capacity building sessions. Just over half of respondents, 56 per cent, found the side events to be "very useful" or "useful". However, 15 per cent said they were not sure, 13 per cent had no opinion and 1 per cent did not find the side events to be useful at all.

## Conference Theme – Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens

The 2011 Conference theme focused on ways in which civil society, in partnerships with other actors, could help foster sustainability and encourage civic involvement through volunteerism. In that regard, NGOs were asked how actively they had promoted the Conference themes in the months leading up to the Conference. A majority of respondents, 71 per cent, said they were "very active" or "active" in promoting the themes. This represents an increase compared to last year's Millennium Development Goals Conference where 61 per cent were active in promoting the Conference theme. In addition, only 1 per cent of NGOs were not active at all as compared to 18 per cent last year.

As a resource for NGOs, the main UN website ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org)) was a useful tool to find information on sustainability and volunteerism. A majority, 72 per cent, considered the main UN website a useful resource, while only 2 per cent disagreed with its usefulness.

## Dissemination of Information on Sustainable Societies and Volunteerism

NGOs are key agents in the dissemination of information about sustainability and volunteerism as valued partners to the UN. This year, survey participants were asked how they or their NGOs planned to disseminate information on sustainability and volunteerism presented at the Conference. They were asked to select as many responses as applied. A majority, 54 per cent, planned on posting information on their websites. Fifty-three per cent said they intended to disseminate information through a newsletter, 49 per cent said they would share information at a meeting or Conference and 39 per cent planned to disseminate information through their membership mailings.

NGOs continue to use social media to disseminate information: 22 per cent said they would use Facebook to disseminate Conference information, compared to 23 per cent in 2010. Twenty-one per cent intended to use their blogs, an increase from 18 per cent in the previous year. Lastly, 10 per cent planned to use Twitter in order to publicize Conference information, the same per cent as last year.



Other means of dissemination included sending information to their NGO headquarter/board of directors (30 per cent), conducting briefings for local media (12 per cent) and distributing information via listserv (10 per cent).

## NGO/DPI Executive Committee

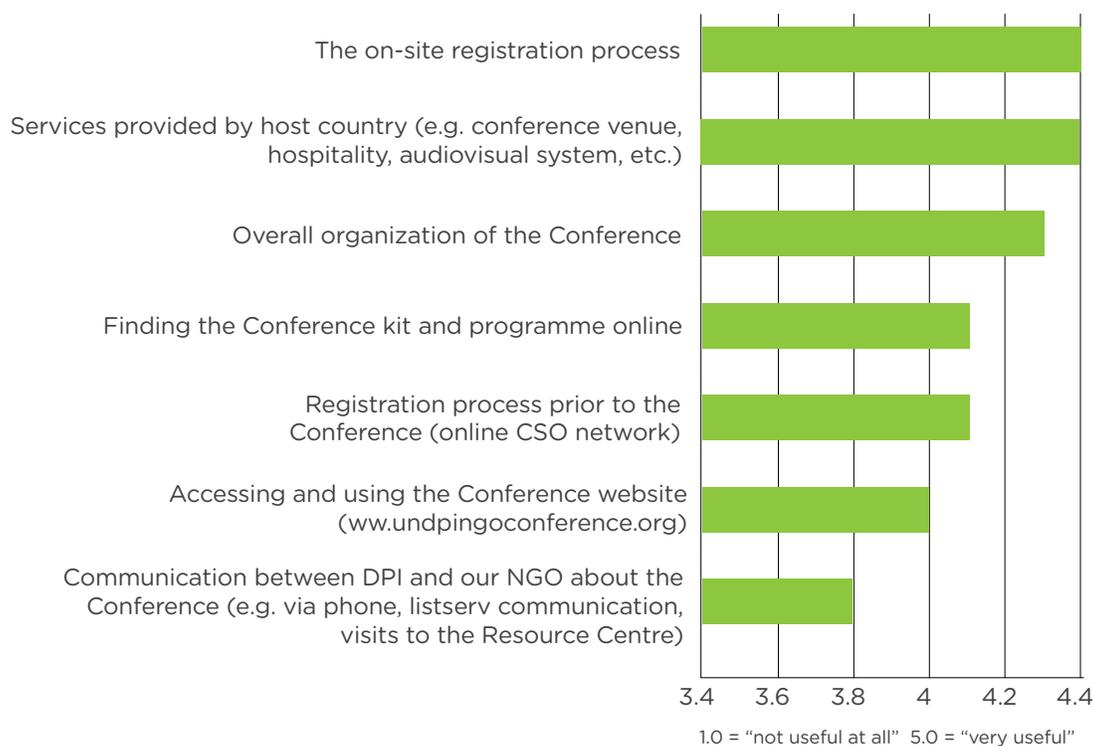
The survey also sought to assess how important it was for the NGO/DPI Executive Committee to be active in the participants' regions. The majority of respondents, 42 per cent, said it was "very important" or "important" for the Committee to be active in their region. This represents a decrease from 45 per cent in 2010. Thirty-nine per cent said they were "not sure or not familiar" with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, 12 per cent had no opinion and 2 per cent said it was not important for the Committee to be active in their region.

## Logistical Aspects and Organization of the Conference

Respondents were asked how they had heard about the Conference. Most respondents heard about the Conference through an international NGO (35 per cent) or the NGO Relations Listserv (20 per cent). Eighteen per cent selected "other"<sup>2</sup> as their source of information. Ten per cent heard about the Conference either through a German NGO, the Conference website or UN Information Centres. Nine per cent were alerted about the Conference through either UN agencies or the NYC NGO Resource Centre. Lastly, 6 per cent heard about the Conference through the UN website, 2 per cent through the United Nations Volunteers, and 1 per cent through either the German government or social media.

Other organizational aspects of the Conference were also rated. The following graph illustrates the satisfaction levels of varying aspects of the Conference:

**Satisfaction with the 64th Annual DPI/NGO Conference in terms of:**



<sup>2</sup> "Other" sources include predominantly friends, colleagues, Carmelitengo.org, the City of Bonn, and Peace Child International.



Respondents gave the highest satisfaction ratings to the on-site registration process and the services offered by the host country. With regard to both the registration process and services offered, 86 per cent indicated that they were “very satisfied” (5 on a 5-point scale) or “satisfied” (4 on a 5-point scale), giving each an average rating of 4.4. The services ranked included hospitality, the quality of the audio-visual system as well as the Conference venue. Overall, a majority of respondents, 83 per cent, were satisfied with the organization of the Conference, with a 4.3 ranking.

This was the third year participants were able to obtain the Conference kit and programme online, before the start of the Conference. This year’s satisfaction rating of 4.1 is higher than both last year’s 3.5 rating and the 4.0 rating of 2009. Seventy-seven per cent of respondents were satisfied with the online information, a significant increase from 55 per cent in 2010. Fifteen per cent were neutral and 8 per cent were not satisfied with the on-line information, a significant decrease from 25 per cent the previous year.

The pre-Conference registration process via the online CSO network also received a 4.1 satisfactory rating. A majority of respondents, 75 per cent, were satisfied with their ability to access and use the Conference website, with a 4.0 rating. The level of communication about the Conference between NGOs and DPI was rated at 3.8, with 66 percent of respondents saying they had a positive experience. This represents an increase from 2010, when respondents rated communication at 3.6. Forms of communication ranked included via telephone, listserv communications, and visits to the NYC NGO Resource Centre.

## Conference Location and Frequency

The majority of participants, 88 per cent, agreed that the Conference should be held in a different region each year. Eight per cent gave neutral responses and 4 per cent disagreed. In an effort to gauge participant’s preference on the periodicity of the Conference, they were asked, “How often should the DPI/NGO Conference take place if it is held in a different region each year?” Nearly half of respondents, 45 per cent, preferred that the Conference be held every year while 38 per cent preferred every two years. Seven per cent showed a preference for every three years and 2 per cent every four years. Five per cent of respondents were not sure.

## Comments from Participants

The survey also asked participants to provide additional thoughts or comments on any other aspects of the conference. Several respondents expressed their disappointment that the Conference – which focused on sustainability – was not itself sustainable. Many pointed to an irresponsible use of energy in the form of lights and air conditioning. Others noted that the venue’s food options, such as the over-fished Hake, were largely unsustainable. Furthermore, some were against the use of plastic cups and suggested that glasses be offered in future conferences.

In terms of the programme, the quality of the workshops, speakers and outcomes received mixed opinions. As was the case last year, respondents commented there were too many workshops on the agenda. The vast amount of choices made it difficult for some to choose which to attend and the limited time between workshops made it difficult to go from one to the next. In addition, some said discussions lacked content and, in some cases, a tangible connection to the Conference theme. Many participants pointed out that those speakers presenting in English tended to alienate those for whom English was not their first language, as their accents were often difficult to understand. The quality of facilitation was also called into question as some respondents believed that chairs did not manage time effectively and allowed audience members to use the Q&A as a “soap box.”

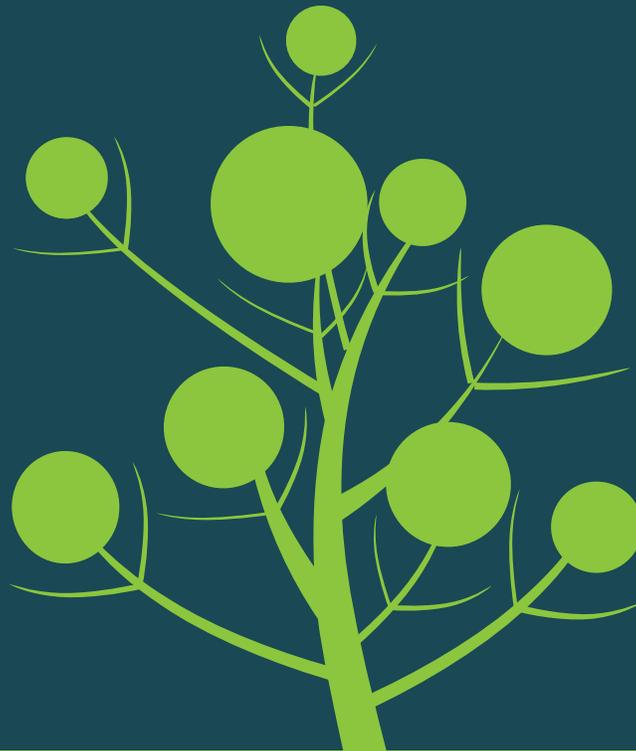


Comments concerning the logistical aspects of the Conference were varied. Several respondents pointed to various communication issues, including a lack of translation services and insufficient communication between DPI and NGOs regarding proposals and the planning of side events and exhibits. Participants' views on the registration process were mixed as some found it easy while others found it complicated and a bit confusing. Some participants also noted they would have liked to have access to Wi-Fi during the Conference.

Respondents were mixed on Bonn, Germany, as the Conference location. Some thought the country was an excellent host while others said it was not ideal. The venue, the Maritim Hotel, received largely negative feedback with regard to its location relative to the Bonn city centre, expensive accommodations, lack of inexpensive and sustainable food options, and the way in which the bomb scare was handled. In terms of the location of future Conferences, respondents were happy with idea of holding them in different regions and suggested places such as New York City, Cairo, Egypt and Nassau, Bahamas.



[www.un.org/dpingoconference](http://www.un.org/dpingoconference)



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