



Department of
Global Communications
Civil Society Unit

2021 SPRING CIVIL SOCIETY ORIENTATION PROGRAMME:
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Date: Thursday, 20 May 2021
Morning Session: 09:30 to 12:40 EST
Afternoon Session: 14:00 to 17:15 EST
Platform: ZOOM

Morning Segment
09:30 – 12:40

09:30 – 10:00 **Maher Nasser**, Director, Outreach Division, Department of Global Communications, welcomes participants and introduces USG Fleming (2 minutes)

Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Department of Global Communications, delivers welcoming remarks (5 minutes)

Q&A with USG Fleming. Questions will be moderated by Maher Nasser, Director, Outreach Division, from the different platforms in use, including Facebook, Instagram, Zoom and Twitter

10:00 – 10:10 **Felipe Queipo**, Communications Officer, Civil Society Unit, introduces the Orientation Programme and Agenda

10:10 – 11:25 **Session 1 – WORKING TOGETHER**

A conversation on the importance of multilateralism at all levels, with a particular emphasis on civil society collaboration, following the Civil Society Unit motto that working together we can make a difference.

Moderator

María Luisa Chávez, Former Chief of NGO Relations Section, United Nations Department of Public Information; Former Director UNIC Athens; Representative Fundación Cultural Baur. (5 minutes introduction and remarks)

Panel

Fannie Munlin, Chair, Global NGO Executive Committee (5-7 minutes)

Estelle Zadra, Liaison Officer at UNESCO, New York Office (5-7 minutes)

Bill Hunter, Director, Office of Fellowship Advising and UN Programs, Lehigh University (5-7 minutes)

Q&A

11:25 – 12:40 **Session 2 – DECADE OF ACTION**

With less than ten years left to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, this session will discuss

what work is being done to make the most of the time left until 2030 to ensure we build a better world for all.

Moderator

Nanette Braun, Chief of Communications Campaigns Service, DGC (UN SCD) (5 minutes introduction and remarks)

Panel

Amanda Laurence, National Information Officer, United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area, UNIC Port of Spain (5-7 minutes)

Paloma Eizaguirre Irujo, Communications Coordinator, Fundación Novia Salcedo, Spain (5-7 minutes) (invited)

Baldomero Lago, Chief Global Officer, Utah Valley University (5-7 minutes)

Q&A

Afternoon Segment

14:00 – 17:15

14:00 – 15:15 Session 3 – THE UNITED NATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

From the moment the United Nations began its work in 1945 civil society has played a fundamental role in the work and mission of the United Nations. This session will explore how the United Nations understands its partnership and collaboration with civil society.

Moderator

Andi Gitow, Chief, Civil Society & Advocacy Section, Outreach Division, Department of Global Communications (5 minutes introduction and remarks)

Panel

Carl Mercer, Communications Adviser & Speechwriter, Office of the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations (5-7 minutes)

Nahleen Ahmed, Programme Management Officer, NGO Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) (5-7 minutes)

Kathryn Good, Programme Management Officer, Non-Governmental Liaison Service, Civil Society Unit, Department of Global Communications (5-7 minutes)

Q&A

15:15 – 16:30 Session 4 – TELLING THE UN STORY

One of the main challenges the United Nations faces is for the world to know and understand its work and mission. The Department of Global Communications is responsible to share with global audiences through different means and platforms and programmes what the UN is and what its objectives are. Colleagues from the Department will share in this session how these efforts are connected and how they serve one purpose: telling the story of the United Nations.

Moderator

Ben Malor, Chief Editor UN News, News and Media Division (5 minutes introduction and remarks)

Panel

Ana María Manero Valles, Visitors Services, Department of Global Communications (5-7 minutes)

Melanie Prud'Homme, Dag Hammarskjold Library, Outreach Division, Department of Global Communications (5-7 minutes)

Gisel Ducatenzeiler, Social Media Team, Strategic Communications Division, Department of Global Communications (5-7 minutes)

Q&A

16:30 – 17:15 **Session 5 – DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES & ENTITLEMENTS. FRAMEWORK AND SCOPE OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN DGC AND CSOs**

Civil Society Organizations associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications enjoy a myriad of benefits, but they also have some responsibilities; these responsibilities are key to maintain a productive relationship with the UN. This final session is a simple and informal approach into what are the expectations with regards to the association of organizations with the UN, how to understand the responsibilities of CSOs with the Organization, and the resources at the disposal of CSOs to better navigate the UN system.

Felipe Queipo, Communications Officer, Civil Society Unit, Outreach Division, Department of Global Communications (5-7 minutes)

Q&A