



CoNGO COMMUNICATION

UN Post-2015 Development Agenda

March 2014

1. Presidential Introduction

It is with satisfaction that I send Members the Seventh "CoNGO COMMUNICATION on the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda". The contents of this issue of CoNGO COMMUNICATION demonstrate yet again the great width of the Post-2015 field of interest, and the large number of places/organs/committees/entities where pieces of the debate are being conducted. A rapid glance shows such spoonfuls of UN alphabet soup as ICPD, SIDS, WED, UN.PGA, ICESDF, HLPF, OWG, UNEA and more. The CoNGO COMMUNICATION serves as a simplified pointer as to where to go to seek more information and more involvement in whichever sectors each Member Organization deals with. It has also already proven to be a means to indicate where Members can cooperate and strengthen interlinkages.

Strengthening interlinkages among NGOs and CSOs is vital policy and practice to have impact on the intergovernmental decision-making processes. Our influence is greater when we collaborate globally and regionally, and in that context I draw attention particularly to item 2 below headed "TOGETHER WE STAND". This worthy initiative emerges from a meeting last month in Istanbul in which at least two CoNGO Board Members were engaged up front. CoNGO will report on the follow up and the opportunities for more intensive work TOGETHER.

The most immediate opportunity is of course the CoNGO General Assembly meeting in New York on April 2-3-4, on the theme "DEFINING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE". If you have not already registered please go NOW to the CoNGO website (www.ngocongo.org) and sign in. See you there !

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

2. "TOGETHER WE STAND:"

Coordinating efforts for a global movement on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda

Representatives more than 30 key platforms and organisations engaged in civil society-led campaigns relating to sustainable development gathered in Istanbul on 23-24 February 2014. The meeting was convened by CIVICUS in collaboration with the United Nations, the Overseas

Development Institute and the United Nations Foundation. Some extracts of the "Istanbul Communiqué" follow.

A Historic Moment

"The year 2015 could potentially be the point of transition to a bold, new generation of people-centred and planet-sensitive development and the beginning of a strong movement for transformational change. Achieving a new social contract that reflects a strong and radical narrative of hope and transformation however requires a concerted effort across existing and prospective civil society platforms, effective cooperation with social movements and a major push for citizens and communities around the world to be engaged with shaping the post-2015 global development agenda. It was agreed that campaigners working on climate change, development and gender equality needed to work together to make the most of this historic moment within a perspective of long-term change and engagement."

Building a Critical Mass for Change

"Debates around the new development agenda are currently confined to global policy makers and advocacy groups, and need to move into the mainstream discourse with the aim of inspiring massive numbers of people worldwide to form a global movement for sustainability, justice and accountability. Such a movement would help ensure that the next phase of the development effort 'leaves no one behind'"

New Strategies and Alliances

"A powerful narrative of change that provides the basis for these diverse actors to work together and a range of campaign tools, including a powerful communication strategy that speaks to the needs of an inter-generational and inter-regional mobilisation effort are essential. An ambitious and unprecedented effort is needed to ensure that millions (or indeed, billions) more people know about the opportunity available through this campaign and its objectives to tackle poverty, injustice and inequality in the lead up to 2015 and thereafter."

The Istanbul Text

"We want a world where development justice is assured and all people are able to realise their rights. We want a world where everyone is able to equally and freely participate in the decisions that affect their lives and hold governments, international institutions, the private sector, civil society and other power holders accountable.

We call for a transparent and inclusive process for the articulation, implementation and monitoring of such a framework. Our vision is a transformational shift that ensures gender justice and enables everyone to live their lives in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression, discrimination or injustice, in a way that protects the planetary systems required for survival of life on earth. This is the world we want and believe can be achieved."

Governance of the campaign

"There was agreement that any new global campaign needed to be organised through a decentralised (flotilla-like), responsive and agile coordination structure:

- The campaign should have an exclusive focus on mobilisation (not lobbying/policy), crowding in behind key initiatives and reaching the public.

- Action groups will be the driving force of the campaign. These will be opt-in, task-orientated and self-run, for example to promote outreach (regions, countries, constituencies, etc.), or on communication."

"There was a shared desire amongst participants to keep campaign governance as light as possible:

- **Regular assemblies** - These will be open to all organisations from civil society that supports the campaign. How these would function and how regular they would be will need to be decided. It would be essential that there was equality of access to the assembly and that they would drive accountability and transparency. It was suggested that they be held to coincide with existing events to reduce costs.
- **A reference group** - This will be elected by the assembly and (in keeping with a flotilla approach) have a very limited remit. It would not revisit decisions made by assembly, nor change opt-in criteria, nor set policy."

Action point:

- Potential Actions. A group was charged with listing potential processes and events that could provide opportunity for coordinated action in keeping with the campaign and movement building objectives of the proposed effort. Mechanisms to enable responsive action to spontaneous, external events or trends that are relevant to the outcomes and potential impact of the campaign are also to be considered in this effort.

"Finally, it was agreed that once sufficient progress had been made a large, open gathering (physical and/or virtual) of those wanting to be part of the effort would need to be convened to launch the common effort. As wide a cross-section of global civil society as possible would be encouraged to sign up to the new campaign and take part in this gathering. It was envisaged that this launch gathering would take place within the next few months."

3. International Conference on Population And Development (ICPD) +20

Beyond 2014 Global Report

The ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Report was launched on 12 February 2014 in New York by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin. The report is the first truly global review of progress, gaps, challenges and emerging issues in relation to the ICPD Programme of Action, adopted in Cairo in 1994. The report highlights that growing inequalities will reverse significant gains in health and longevity achieved over the past 20 years.

It also clearly shows that the Cairo Programme of Action has significantly contributed to substantial progress: fewer women are dying in pregnancy and childbirth; more women have access to education, work and political participation; and more children are going to school. However, the document also warned that these successes are not reaching everyone equally. Especially in the poorest communities, women's status, maternal death, and other concerns have seen very little progress in the last 20 years.

"We cannot afford to wait another 20 years to address the inequalities plaguing our collective well-being. Development gains should not be limited to the fortunate; they should reach all populations," Dr. Osotimehin.

To read the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Report:

http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/icpd_global_review_report.pdf

4. Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Updates on the Open Working Group

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be held from September 1 to 4, 2014 in Apia, Samoa. The overarching theme of the conference is the "sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships."

The Conference will seek to accomplish the following goals: to assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation ; to seek a renewed political commitment by focusing on practical commitment and on practical and pragmatic actions for further implementation; to identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and means of addressing them; and to identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS to be considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.

Furthermore, several areas for cooperation have emerged for special attention ahead of the 2014 SIDS Conference: Climate Change and Sustainable Energy, Oceans and Seas, Waste Management, Sustainable Tourism, Natural Disaster Resilience, Health and Non-Communicable Diseases.

Upcoming SIDS-related meetings:

Intersessional for the Third International Conference on SIDS
21-25 April 2014; UNHQ, New York

Second Preparatory Committee for the Third International Conference on SIDS
23-27 June 2014; UNHQ New York

Pre-conference activities for the Third International Conference on SIDS
28-30 August 2014; Apia, Samoa

Third International Conference on SIDS
1-4 September 2014; Apia, Samoa

5. INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS (IFLA)

Access to Information and the post-2015 Development Agenda

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) believes that increasing access to information and knowledge across society, assisted by the availability of information and communications technologies (ICTs), supports sustainable development and improves peoples' lives. In this context, IFLA is calling on Member States of the United Nations to recognize that access to information, and the skills to use it effectively, is required for sustainable development, and to ensure this is reflected in the post-2015 development agenda.

At the annual World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in Lyon in August 2014, IFLA will launch the 'Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development' which sets out the principles behind access to information and development. IFLA is inviting all interested organizations to sign the declaration so that it might be presented at the UN General Assembly in September 2014, and

be used as an important advocacy tool in the run up to 2015's high level summit on the post-2015 development agenda. IFLA President-Elect Donna Scheeder will introduce the Lyon Declaration at the CoNGO 2014 General Assembly, and outline some of the advocacy work IFLA is undertaking in relation to it.

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6. World Environment Day, June 5, 2014

" Raise your voice, not the sea level " - World Environment Day Slogan

Sea-level rise is indeed a serious issue for small islands. According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global sea levels are rising at an increased rate which is projected to be even greater this century. Coastal communities in every country are then threatened with floods and storm surges, to which small islands are the most exposed.

World Environment Day is the day for positive action for our planet and for mobilization for the environment.

7. The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage

President of the UN General Assembly convenes six events

Between February and June 2014, the President of the General Assembly is convening six events - three high-level meetings and three thematic debates - as a contribution to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. The four events still to be held are:

Thematic Debate on the Role of Partnerships and their Contribution to the Post-2015 Development Agenda
8-9 April 2014; UNHQ, New York

Thematic Debate on Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies
24-25 April 2014; UNHQ, New York

Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda
20-21 May 2014; UNHQ, New York

High-Level Event on Contributions of Human Rights and Rule of Law in the Post-2015 Development Agenda
17-18 June 2014; UNHQ, New York

8. Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF)

ICESDF Regional Consultation, Africa
Organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Government of Ireland
2-3 May 2014; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Fourth Session of the ICESDF
12-16 May 2014; UNHQ, New York

Fifth Session of the ICESDF
4-8 August 2014; UNHQ, New York

9. High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Following its inaugural session in September 2013, the HLPF is scheduled to hold the following meetings:

HLPF Regional Meeting, Western Asia
Organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
2-3 April 2014; Amman, Jordan

Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the HLPF
Organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
7-9 May 2014; Bangkok, Thailand

Second Meeting of the HLPF
30 June-9 July 2014; UNHQ, New York

10. Calendar

2014

International Conference on Population and Development+20
<http://icpdbeyond2014.org/>

International Year of Family Farming
<http://www.family2014.org/home.php>

March – April

31 March - April 3: 2014 World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty (Washington, United States)
<http://usaidlandtenure.net/commentary/2013/09/annual-world-bank-conference-on-land-and-poverty-announced>

31 March - April 4: Open Working Group Negotiations on SDGs – Second Meeting (New York, United States)
<http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/open-working-group-negotiations-on-sdgs-second-meeting/>

April

2-4: CoNGO General Assembly (New York, United States)

<http://www.ngocongo.org/9-what-we-do/81-congo-general-assembly-2014>

7-11: UN Commission on Population and Development, 47th Session (New York, United States)
<http://sids-l.iisd.org/events/47th-session-of-the-commission-on-population-and-development/>

14-17: World Summit on the Information Society+10: Review(Geneva, Switzerland)

May

5-9: Open Working Group Negotiations on SDGs –Third Meeting (New York, United States)
<http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/open-working-group-negotiations-on-sdgs-third-meeting/>

12-23: UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 13th Session (New York, United States)
<http://undesadspd.org/IndigenousPeoples/UNPFISessions/Thirteenth.aspx>

12-16: Global Forum on Migration and Development (Stockholm, Sweden)
<https://www.gfmd.org/en/gfmd-2012/key-2013-2014-activities>

19-24: Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly (Geneva, Switzerland)
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/governance/wha/en/>

June

2-6: Open Working Group Negotiations on SDGs – Fourth Meeting (New York, United States)
<http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/open-working-group-negotiations-on-sdgs-fourth-meeting/>

23-27: United Nations Environment Assembly (Nairobi, Kenya)
<http://climate-l.iisd.org/events/un-environmental-assembly-of-unep/>

July

[TBD]: Fourth Development Cooperation Forum (New York, United States)
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/2014dcf.shtml>

1-25: Substantive Session of UN ECOSOC (Geneva, Switzerland)
<http://post2015.iisd.org/events/2013-substantive-session-of-ecosoc/>

14-18: Open Working Group Negotiations on SDGs –Fifth Meeting (New York, United States)
<http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/open-working-group-negotiations-on-sdgs-fifth-meeting/>

August

27-29: UN Department of Public Information-NGO Conference(New York, United States)
<http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/conference/>

September

1-4: Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, SIDS (Apia, Samoa)
<http://www.sids2014.org/>

22: UNGA Special Session on ICPD Beyond 2014 (New York, United States)
<http://icpdbeyond2014.org/key-events/view/15-icpd-beyond-2014-review-timeline>

22-23: UN General Assembly High Level Plenary Meeting serving as a World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (New York, United States)
<http://wcip2014.org/world-conference-on-indigenous-peoples-september-2014>

23: 2014 Climate Summit, organized by UN Secretary-General (New York, United States)
<http://climate-l.iisd.org/events/2014-climate-summit/>

October – November

20 October-7 November: International Telecommunications Union, Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, Korea)
<http://www.itu.int/en/plenipotentiary/2014/Pages/default.aspx>

November

10-12: World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, organized by UNESCO (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan)
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/events/calendar-of-events/education-global-conferences/>

2015

World Conference on Women-Beijing+20
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/world-conferences-on-women>

World Summit on Social Development-Copenhagen+20
<http://undesadspd.org/CalendarofEvents.aspx>

April

12-17: 7th World Water Forum (Daegu Gyeongbuk, Korea)
<http://worldwaterforum7.org/en>