
Public Private Partnerships for the Success of the Sustainable Development Goals

Recognizing the Success & Finding NGO Consensus to Move Forward After
The UN DPI 66th Annual NGO Conference
“Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development
Goals Together”
24, 25, and 26 August 2016 UNHQ



This informative session was free and registration was open to all. It was presented



with the endorsement of the Permanent Missions of Ghana to the United Nations. Bruce Knotts, Chair of the NGO DPI Executive Committee led the three-day proceedings, held in Conference Room #1 on the UN campus in New York City.

· The aim of this event was to continue discussions on NGO responsibilities for SDG implementation, reporting, and verification as a full partner in the UNs 2030 global challenge for development. What actual programming and partnerships will fulfill the challenges presented by the UN SDGs, the outcome documents, and other discussions concluded at the recent UN DPI Conference last May in the Republic of Korea? What other Public Private partnerships were possible that would help ensure SDG success?

· This three-day event enabled NGOs, the media, and others who were not able to attend the successful gathering in Korea, as well as prepare all those in civil society to

answer the challenges and opportunities posed by the SDGs and provide input on future steps. The gathering reflected other efforts to move public and private partnerships, alongside UN efforts, to ensure maximum success for the SDGs over the coming 15 years. Moving forward from discussions to decisions was a major goal for the Summit.

· Historically, civil society may have had less of a role in planning the global development agenda. This summit empowered civil society to collaborate in a way that may in some ways shape the SDGs for years to come. The UN's 2030 Challenge has determined that an urgent call must go out to Member States, the UN global staff, and civil society, working together on the roadmaps for SDG success.

The Sessions opened with a welcome from the President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mogens Lykketoft, followed by official UN welcomes from H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon, Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea to the United Nations, offering the Host Nation Welcome from the 66th Annual UN DPI Conference last Spring, followed by H.E. Ambassador Marc-André Blanchard, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, a long time supporter of civil society as an active participant in SDG success.



pictures from the conference

A highpoint of the Opening featured artist Jakob Trollback, the creator of the SDG visual element, who reminded us that communicating the goals in all ways was essential to people understanding and accepting them as their own.

Other welcomes were provided by representatives of the mayor of New York City, Helen Clark of UNDP, as well as Jeff Brez and Bruce Knotts, representing UN DPI and NGO DPI, who helped lead the initial conference on the topic in the Republic of Korea at the 66th Annual DPI Conference on May 31, June 1 and 2, 2016.

Part of the mission of this event was to support on public private partnerships in the civil society sector, in order to help promote SDG success across all sectors. The events began with a recap of recent past efforts, including the Korea DPI conference that brought us to the present. Titled: Coming from, Going to: Starting at the Outcome, Where Next?, it was moderated by a former DPI Conference Chair, Jeffery Huffines and featured the reflections of Ms. Diana Bas (Executive Director, UNDP), and Scott Carlin, DPI Conference Co-Chair, Korea.

From there the conference captured some of the highlight panels from the DPI Conference:

1) The Right to Accessible, Safe and Inclusive Learning Spaces, moderated by Bruce Knotts, Conference Chair, with Panelists: Leslee Udwin, Founder and CEO, Think Equal, Joseph S. Akoro, Founder and CEO, RenfoCap Centre, Rurik Nackerud, Elisabeth Morrow School, Little School Technology Integration, and Carol Bangura, Doctor of Public Health Candidate, Senior Development Officer, NGO Representative to the United Nations.

2) STEAM for Global Citizenship to Power the SDGs, moderated by Dr. Eunhee Jung, Executive Director, IVECA International Virtual Schooling, with Panelists: H.E. Ambassador Riadh Ben Sliman, Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the UN, H.E. Ambassador Choonghee Hahn, Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea to the UN, Babette Allina, Executive Director, Government Relations and External Affairs, RISD, Dr. Robert Swap, Research Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of

Virginia Extraordinary Professor, Environmental Sciences and Management, the Potchefstroom Campus of the North West University, South Africa, and Ann Woo, Senior Director, Corporate Citizenship, Samsung Electronics in NA.

Several other important roundtable discussions ensued. These were based more generally on the topic of public private partnerships for the success of the SDGs:

1) Global Citizens as Stewards of the Planet: Partnerships for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, moderated by Mr. Amir Dossal, Founder and Chairman, Global Partnership Forum, with Panelists: Bryan Maygers, Executive Blog Editor, Huffington Post, Dan Connors, Aris Wind and Solar, and Gopal Patel, Director, The Bhumi Project.

2) Small Island Development and the SDGs - An Ongoing Member State Discussion with Civil Society, Moderated by, Dr. Radhika Iyengar, Center for Sustainable Development, Earth Institute, Columbia University, with Panelists: H.E. Ambassador Caleb Otto, Permanent Mission of Palau to the UN, and H.E. Ambassador Ahmed Sareer, Permanent Mission of Maldives to the UN.

3) The SDGs in the Private Sector , featuring Special guests from "Capital Markets Global Summit: Aligning Capital with the SDGs", an upcoming conference to be held at the UN this Fall. Moderated by Tami Kesselman, Co-Chair, Capital Markets Global Summit at UN, with special guests from the Capital Markets conference, Chantal Line Carpentier, Chief of Office, UNCTAD New York, James Gifford, Senior Fellow, Harvard Initiative for Responsible Investment; Director of Impact for Tau Investments; former Founding Executive Director for UN-backed PRI, and Vanessa Grellet, CEO, Intentional Investments Holdings; Chair, Nexus Impact Investing.

4) And the panels closed with a call for greater youth involvement and 'ownership' of the SDGs: #GiveYouthAChance: Youth Empowerment for Agenda 2030 Action, moderated by Ravi Karkara, Senior Adviser Strategic Partnership & Advocacy to the Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director of UN Women and co-chair UN Interagency network on youth development , with Panelists: Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, UNAOC and Focus on Youth, Miroslav Polzer, IAAI, Global Challenges Youth Music Contest - Informal Global Citizenship Education and Resource Mobilization with the Power of Music, Anam Gill, IAAI Pakistan (via skype), Youth led local action for global goals in Pakistan, Melody Yung Chang, Youthink Center, Youth Empowerment for Global Challenges, China, Cleopatra Mbali Masinga, IAAI NY and South Africa, Empowering social entrepreneurs, Esther Mc Farlane, UN Secretary General's Global Education First Initiative's Youth Advocacy Group (GEFI-YAG), Global Citizenship Education

In fact, the conference closed with a rousing address from a Philippine youth, Madeleine Ramos, perhaps the world's first "Global Student." Ms. Ramos has been selected to study in each of the UN's 193 member states and at the end will receive a masters degree in international education from Harvard University and will appear on a Discovery Channel documentary on her journey.

Other important addresses on a variety of topics, challenges, and opportunities to public private partnerships for the success of the SDGs, by: MacDella Cooper, Founder, MacDella Cooper Foundation, Ediola Pashollari, Secretary General, World Assembly of Youth, Min Jeong Kim, UNESCO New York Liaison Office, Yoo Bin Cha, Filmmaker, Mariposa Foundation, and Maria Fare, UN Sustainable Development Campaign.

One final highlight featured a New Book Release: "Negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals: A Transformational Agenda for an Insecure World" by Felix Dodds, Ambassador David Donoghue and Jimena Leiva Roesch. Felix Dodds, Former UN DPI/ NGO Conference Chair, Author joined us to review his latest book, talk about his role as a former co-chair of the UN DPI Conference (Bonn, 2011), and his views on public private partnerships for the UN going forward.

The events opened and closed with music and dance ensembles from Korea and China, fitting bookmarks to demonstrate the need for all sectors, including the cultural practitioners, to join in the opportunities for partnerships and success within the United Nations 2030 Global Challenge: the Sustainable Development Goals.

Respectfully Submitted by Patrick Sciarratta, WDF
September 8, 2016