

UN 2020

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE UN WE NEED

UN2020 Information, Organization and Strategy Meeting Program

DATE: 12 NOVEMBER 2019

PREPARED FOR: UN2020 STRATEGY MEETING

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Soroptimist International

NGO Committee on
Sustainable Development-NY



UN2020 Information, Organization and Strategy Meeting

Civil Society Partnerships for the UN We Need

When: Tuesday, 12 November 2019, 9.30-16.30

Where: Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office, 866 UN Plaza, Suite 120

Hosted by: World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy, CIVICUS, The Stimson Center, The Workable World Trust, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York, United Nations Association-UK, Soroptimist International, NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

Introduction

Last June the General Assembly adopted a modalities resolution ([A/RES/73/299](#)) that decided that the UN shall prepare a Leaders Summit on 21 September 2020 to commemorate its 75th anniversary under the theme "The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism." The President of the General Assembly will soon be appointing two co-facilitators to lead and conclude intergovernmental negotiations on a "concise, substantive, forward-looking and unifying declaration" no later than June 2020.

Member States decided that the UN75 theme shall guide all activities, meetings and conferences organized by the UN in 2020, emphasizing the need to engage civil society and youth in all activities to commemorate the 75th anniversary. Moreover, on 24 October the Secretary-General invited people worldwide to initiate and participate in a series of [UN75 Global Dialogues](#) on the major challenges we face and the role of global cooperation in addressing them.

With an effective UN process of stocktaking and review, the 75th anniversary of the UN could become the much needed opportunity leading to renewal, innovation, and reform of the United Nations system after 2020. Now is the time for key global, regional and national civil society networks to organize their participation in UN75 commemorative events, dialogues and activities during 2020, including their participation in the planning of key commemorative events throughout next year, that includes the proposed UN75 NGO Forum in New York next spring to influence the outcomes of the UN75 Leaders Summit in September 2020.

Meeting objectives include:

- To develop a UN2020 Plan of Action and establish a division of labor based on the following proposed thematic Working Groups on Fundraising, Events Planning, UN75 Dialogues, Advocacy, Media & Communications.
- To utilize the 75th anniversary theme to amplify and carry forward key international civil society campaigns to accelerate the achievement of important global agreements & events such as Beijing+25, NPT 2020 Review, Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement.
- To strategize on how global civil society can best organize itself to curate progressive, far reaching reform proposals for further strengthening the UN system.

- To identify important calendar events that civil society campaigns can use to promote UN75 global governance renewal & strengthening in 2020 and beyond.
- To begin preparations on an NGO forum, or series of forums, at the United Nations to create critical mass for maximizing global civil society's influence vis-a-vis Member States in preparing the UN75 Political Declaration.
- To expand the membership of the UN2020 campaign and to discuss other opportunities to scale up.

Agenda

Time	Agenda item
9:15 - 9:30	Sign-in and Coffee
9.30 - 10.00	<p>Welcome: Daniel Perell, Baha'i International Community</p> <hr/> <p>Introduce UN2020 Working Groups: Richard Ponzio, Just Security 2020, The Stimson Center</p>
10.00 - 11.00	<p>UN75 Global Dialogues & Summit Outcomes <i>Moderator: Giovanna Kuele, Instituto Igarapé</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN75 Global Dialogues Toolkit - Natalie Samarasinghe, UN75 • Youth Engagement - Jolly Amatya, Major Group for Children & Youth • UN75 Political Declaration - Barbara Adams, Global Policy Forum
11.00 - 11.10	Short break
11.10 - 12.10	<p>Prospects for UN75 NGO Forum & Civil Society Declaration <i>Moderator: Bette Levy, Soroptimist International</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO Forum Modalities & Outcomes - Fergus Watt, UN2020 • Millennium NGO Forum+20 - Liberato Bautista, CoNGO & The United Methodist Church • Triumph Group Funding Proposal - Aaron Etra, UNA-USA Council of Organizations • Respondent: Soon-Young Yoon, International Alliance of Women / Beijing+25

12.10 - 13.25	Working Lunch - Open Discussion on "Possible Strategies for Next Steps" moderated by Margo LaZaro, NGO Committee on Sustainable Development- NY
13.25 - 14.25	From UNGA 2019 to UNGA 2020 & Beyond - Connecting UN75 to the 2030 Agenda & Paris Agreement <i>Moderator: Daniel Perell, Baha'i International Community</i> Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Groups & Other Stakeholders Mechanism - (TBD) • Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just & Inclusive Societies - David Steven, NYU Center on International Cooperation • Stand Together Now Campaign & People's Assembly Declaration - Ingo Ritz, GCAP/Action for Sustainable Development
14.25 - 14.30	Short break
14.30 - 15.30	On the Road to 2020: Civil Society Events & Advocacy <i>Moderator: Jeffery Huffines, CIVICUS & UN2020</i> Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PyeongChang Global Peace Forum 2020 - Anselmo Lee, Kyunghee University, South Korea • Together First Global Governance Dialogues - Ben Donaldson, UNA-UK • UN75 San Francisco Global Forum - Maureen Connolly, One Earth Future Foundation
15.30 - 16:30	Wrap Up & Next Steps <i>Moderator: Volker Lehmann, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York</i> <i>Rapporteur: Mercedes Ward, University of Utah</i>

Background & context

It is no coincidence that the global polity has been facing a twin crisis of democracy and multilateralism. Last month the Secretary-General announced that the United Nations would run out of money unless Member States paid their outstanding dues in the amount of \$1.3 billion, with the United States alone owing over \$1 billion. Civil society advocates are deeply concerned about a United Nations system that is under-resourced, under attack and unable to respond adequately to the many challenges facing humanity. There is an urgent need to strengthen the UN system so that it will be able to meet the challenges of this century, and to avoid repeating the catastrophic failures of the last century.

This year's opening session of the United Nations General Assembly stood out for revealing the stark divide now defining international relations: the split between globalists and patriots. To counter the rise of nationalism and protectionism, the German and French foreign ministers gathered some 50 countries for the first meeting of the "Alliance for Multilateralism," a group of nations working to boost international cooperation, reform international institutions, and tackle various global issues such as disarmament, digitalization and climate change.

Against this backdrop, proponents in favor of a strengthened, transformed multilateral system recognize the 75th anniversary of the United Nations as an important opportunity to hold governments accountable to the commitments they made to the UN Charter in 1945, and to mobilize the necessary public support to demand that world leaders develop meaningful progressive improvements to global institutions and policy, through a UN75 Summit dedicated for this purpose.

For further information, contact Fergus Watt (ferguswatt6@gmail.com) or Jeffery Huffines (jeffery.huffines@civicus.org).

Background Material

- UN2020 Strategy Meeting Report (October 2018)
http://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.184/b06.41d.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/UN2020_Oct15th_Report.pdf
- UN2020 Strategy Meeting Executive Summary (October 2018)
<http://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.184/b06.41d.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/UN2020-10.15.28-Executive-Summary.pdf>
- An Innovation Agenda for UN 75: The Albright-Gambari Commission Report and the Road to 2020, The Stimson Center (2019)
<http://www.platformglobalsecurityjusticegovernance.org/publications-resources/an-innovation-agenda-for-un-75/>
- Action Plan from the Global Policy Dialogue on Security, Justice, and Economic Institutions, convened by The Stimson Center, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office, Global Challenges Foundation, and One Earth Future Foundation (5-6 June 2019)
<http://www.platformglobalsecurityjusticegovernance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/GSJE-GPD-Action-Plan-August-2019.pdf>
- Action Plan from the Global Policy Dialogue on Preventive Action, Sustaining Peace, and Global Governance, convened by The Stimson Center and Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (17 December 2018)
<http://www.platformglobalsecurityjusticegovernance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Doha-GPD-Action-Plan-Final-for-Circulation-13-February-2019.pdf>
- How to save the world: Ten Lessons From the History of Global Governance Reform, Together First, (2019)
[https://together1st.org/pdf/Together_First_Report_V7_\(How%20to%20save%20the%20world\).pdf](https://together1st.org/pdf/Together_First_Report_V7_(How%20to%20save%20the%20world).pdf)
- Rising to the Challenge: A New Report from Together First (2019)
https://together1st.org/storage/00007140_Rising%20to%20the%20challenge%20V6_Spreads.pdf
- CoNGO Declaration on the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the UN
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByYsBYLr8B6ZTmtOWGtFbGJCbHR0UFZyVIMxME00QIA3Nmtz/view>
- Feminist and Women's movement Action Plan for Beijing + 25
<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/my-drive>
- NGO Participation for Beijing + 25: <https://ngocsw.org/beijing25/>
- Stand Together Now Campaign
<https://www.standtogethernow.net/stand-together-now/>
- Belgrade Call to Action, [here](https://www.civicus.org/April-24-Final-Belgrade-Call-to-Action.pdf)
<https://www.civicus.org/April-24-Final-Belgrade-Call-to-Action.pdf>
- Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2019: Reshaping governance for sustainability
<https://www.2030spotlight.org/en/book/1883/chapter/reshaping-governance-sustainability>
- CIVICUS report on State of Civil Society Report 2019 [here](https://www.civicus.org/index.php/state-of-civil-society-report-2019)
<https://www.civicus.org/index.php/state-of-civil-society-report-2019>
- Millennium Forum Declaration (2000)
[herehttps://www.un.org/press/en/2000/20000526.ga9712.doc.html](https://www.un.org/press/en/2000/20000526.ga9712.doc.html)

Key Websites

- UN2020 website: <http://un2020.org/>
- UN2020 background materials, including key reports & studies from UN2020 partners: <http://un2020.org/background-resources/>
- Together First website: <https://together1st.org/>
- Platform on Global Security, Justice & Governance Innovation: <http://www.platformglobalsecurityjusticegovernance.org/>
- General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/299
<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/299>
- UN75 Global Dialogues
<https://www.un.org/un75>

Speaker bios

Daniel Perell, Baha'i International Community

Daniel Perell joined the Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office as a Representative in 2011. His areas of work include social and sustainable development, global citizenship, human rights, the role of religion in society, and defense of the Baha'i Community. He recently served as a Global Organizing Partner of the NGO Major Group and is currently the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development. In 2010, Mr. Perell received a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law and an MA in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

Richard Ponzio, Just Security 2020, The Stimson Center

Dr. Richard Ponzio is Director of Just Security 2020 at The Stimson Center in Washington, D.C., which seeks to maximize "UN 75" by, in part, advancing the Albright-Gambari Commission global governance innovation recommendations and related follow-on research. Previously, he served in senior positions at the United Nations and U.S. State Department and has published widely.

Giovanna Kuele, Instituto Igarapé

Giovanna Kuele is advisor of Together First, non-resident researcher for Igarapé Institute (Brazil), and a PhD Candidate at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). Based in NY, she has researched and advocated on international politics, particularly on global governance, conflict prevention, and peace operations. She has completed her M.A. (2017) and B.A. (2014) at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil. She has conducted fieldwork in Congo (2015), Ethiopia (2018), and Kenya (2018).

Natalie Samarasinghe, UN75

Natalie Samarasinghe is Deputy to the Special Adviser on the Preparations for the Commemoration of the UN's 75th Anniversary. She was previously speechwriter for the President of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly. Natalie is on sabbatical from her role as Executive Director of the United Nations Association - UK, where she has worked since 2006. At UNA-UK, she co-founded the 1 for 7 Billion campaign which secured changes to the Secretary-General selection process, and the Together First initiative on global governance reform. Prior to that, she worked in local government and for the private sector.

Jolly Amatya, Major Group for Children & Youth

Jolly Amatya is the first Nepalese Youth Chair of the Youth Assembly at the United Nations. She currently leads more than 1000 outstanding delegates representing almost 100 countries UN headquarters in New York. She has served diverse administrations and bodies including UN Women, WFUNA, the World Bank, Habitat for Humanity and ActionAid International for the betterment of the status of women and youth. She has been serving on the board of the US National Committee for UN Women in the Executive Finance Committee for the past three years. She also works with the White House AAPI Youth Forum, White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders, and was awarded the Young Global Leader Achievement award in 2015 by Global Connections for Women Foundation in New York.

Barbara Adams, Global Policy Forum

Barbara Adams served as Associate Director of the Quaker United Nations Office in New York (1981–1988), where she worked with delegates, UN staff and NGOs on issues of economic and social justice, women, peace and human rights. Barbara served as Deputy Coordinator of the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) through the period of the UN global conferences and until 2003. From 2003–2008 she worked as Chief of Strategic Partnerships and Communications for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Her recent experiences have included being a member of the President of UN General Assembly CSO taskforce for MDG 2010 Summit, the Coordinating Committee of Social Watch and the Civil Society Reflection Group on Global Development Perspectives. During her career she has worked as a consultant to UNICEF, served on the board of directors for the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) and has undertaken development work in Latin America.

Bette Levy, Soroptimist International

Bette Levy is the Main UN Representative for Soroptimist International (SI) and a UN Representative for the World Federation for Mental Health. In these roles, she actively participates in several NGO committees, working groups and coalitions, including: UN2020 Coordination group, the NGO Committee on Social Development, the working group to end homelessness and the Working Group on Girls. She is an active member of the Women's Major Group, member of the TAP Network and Together2030, United Nations Association, Metro Chapter and UN Women Metro Chapter and was a co-organizer of the Beijing + 25 ECE Regional Civil Society Forum in 2019. She was a founding member of the Coalition for Global Citizenship 2030 and the former Vice Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) and co-chair of Planning for the NGO CSW 60 & 61 Forum.

Fergus Watt, UN2020

Fergus Watt is Executive Director of the World Federalists Movement – Canada. He also chairs the Board of the international World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy. His work with civil society to advance global governance reforms has included participation in a range of broad-based networks, in Canada and internationally, on topics such as UN reform, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, democracy promotion, human rights and international justice. He presently serves as Coordinator for the UN2020 Initiative, which seeks to build support for using the 75th anniversary of the United Nations as an opportunity to strengthen multilateralism.

Liberato Bautista, CoNGO & The United Methodist Church

Dr. Liberato "Levi" C. Bautista is Assistant General Secretary for UN and International Affairs and main representative at the UN worldwide for the General Board of Church and Society—the international public policy and social justice agency of The United Methodist Church. He has held this position since 1997. Bautista is the President of CoNGO (Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the UN). His NGO-related activities total 45 years, dating back to 1974, working entirely in non-governmental, faith-based and ecumenical organizations.

Aaron Etra, UNA-USA Council of Organizations

Mr. Etra is an attorney and businessman who has practiced, taught and engaged in Law, Business, Trade, Development and International Affairs in the U.S., U.K., Switzerland, the Netherlands and Africa. His public service activities include having been Membre du Cabinet of the Director-General of the International Labor Organization, founding Chair of the African Affairs Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Vice-Chair of the United Nations NGO/DPI Executive Committee, Vice-Chair of the Council on UN Affairs of B'nai B'rith International, an officer of the UN CoNGO Committees on Human Rights and on Sustainable Development, serving on the President's Council of the Sea Research Foundation and the International Boards of Governors of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology (which awarded him an Honorary Fellowship) and the Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design in Jerusalem. He is Chair of the Executive Committee of the Council of Organizations of UNA-USA and a Vice-President of the World Council of Peoples for the United Nations.

Margo LaZaro, NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Director of UN Relations for Global Family, Board Chair of Advisors for Youth for a Better World/Montessori MUN/Youth Impact! Forum, Coordinating Partner of UN2020 and UN Rep. of Huairou Commission. She is Co-Founder and Chief Strategic Officer of the SDG Impact Awards. She has over thirty years of experience working in the UN Community as a Chief Developer of conferences and Special Events with impactful programs that include the UN/SDGs.

Soon-Young Yoon, International Alliance of Women / Beijing+25

Chair of the Board at the Women's Environment and Development Organization, UN representative for the International Alliance of Women, and Immediate Past Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women/NY. During her tenure with the NGO CSW/NY, the committee launched the Cities for CEDAW campaign. She was a Social Development officer for UNICEF in the Southeast Asia office as well as the Social Scientist at WHO/SEARO in New Delhi. She serves as a board member of the International Foundation for Ewha Womans University and on the Global Advisory Board of the Harvard AIDS Initiative. She is also a founding member of the Women Mayor's Network in association with the National Democratic Institute. A former columnist for the EarthTimes newspaper, she is co-editor with Dr Jonathan Samet of the WHO monograph, "Gender, Women, and the Tobacco Epidemic."

David Steven, NYU Center on International Cooperation

David is a Senior Fellow and Associate Director at New York University's Center on International Cooperation, and is also the Director of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies – a multi-stakeholder partnership that brings together UN member states, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate action for the SDG targets for peace, justice and inclusion (SDG16+). The Pathfinders launched a revised version of the Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies at the 2019 HLPF.

Ingo Ritz, GCAP/Action for Sustainable Development

Ingo Ritz is Director of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) a global network with coalitions in 58 countries. GCAP supports people in their struggles for justice and brings individuals and organisations together to challenge the institutions and processes that perpetuate poverty and inequalities. GCAP is part of Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD) the global platform behind the Week of Action “Stand Together Now”. Ingo coordinated the People’s Assembly during the UN SDG Summit in September 2019 in New York. GCAP and A4SD in cooperation with the UN SDG Action Campaign initiated the “Act4SDGs” Global Days of Action on 25 September 2017 and 2018.

Jeffery Huffines, CIVICUS & UN2020

Jeffery Huffines is Senior Advisor to UN2020 on behalf of CIVICUS which he joined in 2009 as UN Representative (NY). He represented CIVICUS at the UN High-level Political Forum since its inception and was an organizing partner of the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016). He was Chair of the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference, “2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda”, UN HQ NY, 27-29 August 2014, and was Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011).

Anselmo Lee, Kyunghee University, South Korea

Anselmo LEE is adjunct professor at Graduate School of Public Policy and Civic Engagement at Kyunghee University in South Korea, and adviser to the PyeongChang Peace Forum (PPF). He is also member of Policy Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) as well as National Human Rights Commission of Korea. On civil society front, he is also member of the Policy Committee of the Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC). He was one of the founders of the Asia Democracy Network (ADN) and the Asia Development Alliance (ADA), a regional network of national CSO platforms on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and now senior adviser to both. He used to be a member of International Board of CIVICUS (2012-2016).

Ben Donaldson, UNA-UK

Ben has eight years’ experience running UK and international campaigns on UN issues. Having joined UNA-UK two years earlier, in 2013 he co-launched the 1 for 7 Billion campaign – an international initiative widely credited with revolutionising the way the UN selects its Secretary-General.

As UNA-UK’s Head of Campaigns, Ben coordinates the charity’s Together First campaign to give civil society a greater voice in global decision-making. He also leads the Organisation’s policy work on arms control and disarmament, with a particular focus on international processes and UK advocacy to improve nuclear security, ban lethal autonomous weapons systems and regulate arms exports.

**Maureen Connolly,
One Earth Future Foundation**

As an External Engagement Fellow for One Earth Future, Maureen supports OEF in the development of world-class events to further the impact and outreach of its programs and research. She is an event strategist and innovator who brings extensive national and international experience across diverse markets.

Maureen is President of Partnerships for Social Change, advancing innovative partnerships to solve complex issues and making progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Maureen is a graduate of the Wagner School at NYU with an MPA focusing on social innovation.

**Volker Lehmann,
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York**

Volker Lehmann is a Senior Policy Analyst with the FES New York office, where he focuses on the role of the UN in international peace and security, on the nexus of peace and development, and on reforming the UN. He was involved in global governance reform initiatives such as the Albright-Gambari Commission on Global Security, Justice & Governance.

Mercedes Ward, PhD, University of Utah

Dr. Ward's international experience spans three continents and nearly two decades. During this time she has been engaged in ecological and social research, program design and management, and capacity building of people and institutions. At present she is part of an interdisciplinary team based at the University of Utah and funded by USAID to support the establishment of a center for water-related research and education (USPCAS-W) at Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Pakistan. As a researcher, she is leading a team with funding from the Sindh Water Sector Improvement Project to study the relationship between social power asymmetry and inequitable irrigation water distribution in order to deliver policy recommendations for improving equity.

WHAT IS THE UN WE NEED?

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