

Invitation

## *Informal Workshop*

# **Building The Resource Base for Civil Society Participation in post Rio+20 UN system**

Date: Tuesday, 25 September 2012 16.15-17.45 EDT (00 UTC/GMT)

Venue: Baha'i International Community - UN Office, 866 UN Plaza, Suite 120, New York

At the workshop civil society representatives (Rio+20 Major Group NGOs Organizing partners, IAAI, youth networks, etc.) will discuss in an informal setting the issue of improving the funding of civil society (Major groups) participation in the UN system with a special focus on implementation of Rio+20 outcomes, designing SDGs and post 2015/ post-MDG regime.

Participation of UN officials, Member States representatives, foundation/philanthropy and private sector experts welcome.

The meeting will be webbroadcasted via <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/iaai---151515---gymc>

### *Draft annotated Agenda*

**I. PRESENTATION OF RELEVANT TEXT PASSAGES ON “CIVIL SOCIETY”/”PARTICIPATION” AND “FUNDING”/”FINANCING” FROM [RIO+20 OUTCOME DOCUMENT “THE FUTURE WE WANT”](#)**

*(Note 1: there are numerous formulations there to build upon!; see Annex of this document)*

*(Note 2: as UN General Assembly is supposed to work on implementation of Rio+20 Outcomes, it is surprising and unfortunate that **neither “civil society” nor “participation” are mentioned in the [Draft Agenda of 67 UN General Assembly](#)** which is starting these days)!*

**II. PRESENTATIONS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:**

- Statement on **Civil Society Participation in UN Processes related to Post 2015** (civil society representatives convened by CIVICUS, GCAP and Beyond 2015, *see Annex III*)
- **UN NGLS: Report on Civil Society Dialogue with Members of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post 2015 Development Agenda** and the United Nations: New York 24th September 2012
- **IAAI: 15/15/15 UN Civil Society Resource Mobilization Partnership Voluntary Commitment**  
<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=88>
- **Dialogue between the President of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly and civil society 10 September 2012** (e.g. UN GA – “Friends of Civil Society” idea/initiative)

*cont.->*

### III. OUTLINING JOINT ACTIVITIES:

#### 1. Intra CSO (Civil Society Organizations)/MG (Major Groups) coordination and alliance building

- Joint Problem definition
- MG Resource Mobilization Task Force (*optional*)
- **CSO Resource Mobilization Alliance** outline (to do the “homework” in order to be ready to approach philanthropic sources (e.g. The Giving Pledge <http://givingpledge.org/#directory> or ODA sources) in a bold, participatory and effective manner. (To be linked with efforts of above quoted Statement on Civil Society Participation in UN Processes related to Post 2015 and its request “6. A fully funded Civil Society platform must be in place by the end of 2012 at the latest and be supported by a relevant UN entity, for example a well resourced and strengthened UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS), and must be directly linked to the UN General Assembly President’s office.”))

#### 2. Awareness Raising and Creation of Interfaces with UN System

- Outlining a potential **Side event to UN GA 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee** <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml> on systemic challenges of Funding of Civil Society participation in UN system
- Outlining a potential **UN GA High Level Meeting on The Future of Civil Society participation in UN system**, (spring 2013)
- **UN GA Resolution** (public awareness for problem, facilitating sharing of resources (tax, legal for cross border giving, matching funds and other content coordinated with other CSO efforts relating to post2015 etc.)
- Getting into **postRio+20 Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for SD Financing Strategy**
- Promoting the Idea of **UN GA Group of Friends of Civil Society**

#### 3. Approaching Philanthropists/Foundations and Organization of a Global Fundraising Campaign (context: 15/15/15)

- How could a global CSO coordination and resource sharing mechanism look like
- What is the “homework” a potential CSO Alliance has to do prior to approaching potential funders (like e.g. The Giving Pledge signatories)
- Finding a patron for **resource mobilization related to youth participation in UN activities** (pilot for other MG specific programs and projects)
- IAAI 15/15/15 **UN Civil Society Resource Mobilization Partnership Voluntary Commitment** <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=88>
- Outlining a **potential global fundraising campaign** (e.g. with UN Foundation & Aid Matrix)

**Registration:** To register for the event please send an email to [polzer@glocha.info](mailto:polzer@glocha.info)

#### **Contact:**

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## ANNEX

### Quotes from Rio+20 Outcome Document “The future we want” on “Civil Society” and “Participation”:

13. We recognize that opportunities for people to influence their lives and future, participate in decision-making and voice their concerns are fundamental for sustainable development. We underscore that sustainable development requires concrete and urgent action. It can only be achieved with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and the private sector, all working together to secure the future we want for present and future generations.

44. We acknowledge the role of civil society and the importance of enabling all members of civil society to be actively engaged in sustainable development. We recognize that improved participation of civil society depends upon, inter alia, strengthening access to information and building civil society capacity and an enabling environment. We recognize that information and communications technology is facilitating the flow of information between governments and the public. In this regard, it is essential to work towards improved access to information and communications technology, especially broadband networks and services, and bridge the digital divide, recognizing the contribution of international cooperation in this regard.

58. We affirm that green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should:

...

(c) Be supported by an enabling environment and well-functioning institutions at all levels with a leading role for governments and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

76. We recognize that effective governance at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels representing the voices and interests of all is critical for advancing sustainable development. The strengthening and reform of the institutional framework should not be an end in itself, but a means to achieve sustainable development. We recognize that an improved and more effective institutional framework for sustainable development at the international level should be consistent with the Rio Principles, build on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and its objectives on the institutional framework for sustainable development, contribute to the implementation of our commitments in the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields and take into account national priorities and the development strategies and priorities of developing countries. We therefore resolve to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development, which will, inter alia:

(h) Enhance the participation and effective engagement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the relevant international forums and in this regard promote transparency and broad public participation and partnerships to implement sustainable development;

84. We decide to establish a universal intergovernmental high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission. The high-level political forum shall follow up on the implementation of sustainable development and should avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner.

88. We are committed to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental

agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. We reaffirm resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 which established UNEP and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP and the 2000 Malmö Ministerial Declaration. In this regard, we invite the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, to adopt a resolution strengthening and upgrading UNEP in the following manner:

(h) Ensure the **active participation of all relevant stakeholders** drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and **exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society**.

92. We reaffirm the importance of broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and normsetting, and in this regard, take note of recent **important decisions on reform of the governance structures, quotas and voting rights of the Bretton Woods institutions**, better reflecting current realities and enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries, and reiterate the importance of the reform of the governance of those institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.

189. We **call for all relevant stakeholders**, including Governments, international, regional and subregional organizations, the private sector and **civil society, to take appropriate and effective measures**, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development, including through strengthening coordination and cooperation to reduce exposure to risk for the protection of people, and infrastructure and other national assets, from the impact of disasters, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and any post-2015 framework for **disaster risk reduction**.

248. We resolve to **establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders**, with a view to **developing global sustainable development goals** to be agreed by the General Assembly. An open working group shall be constituted no later than at the opening of the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly and shall comprise 30 representatives, nominated by Member States from the five United Nations regional groups, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable and balanced geographic representation. At the outset, this open working group will decide on its methods of work, including developing modalities to **ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society**, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience. It will submit a report, to the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action.

## Quotes from Rio+20 Outcome Document “The future we want” on “Funding”/”Financing”

66. Recognizing the importance of **linking financing, technology, capacitybuilding and national needs for sustainable development policies**, including green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, we invite the United Nations system, in **cooperation with relevant donors** and international organizations, to coordinate and provide information upon request on:

- a) Matching interested countries with the partners that are best suited to provide requested support;
- b) Toolboxes and/or best practices in applying policies on green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication at all levels;
- c) Models or good examples of policies on green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
- d) Methodologies for evaluation of policies on green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
- e) Existing and emerging platforms that contribute in this regard.

71. We encourage existing and new **partnerships**, including public-private partnerships, to **mobilize public financing complemented by the private sector**, taking into account the interests of local and indigenous communities when appropriate. In this regard, governments should support initiatives for sustainable development, including promoting the contribution of the private sector to support green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

184. We call on the international community to enhance support and fulfil commitments to advance action in areas critical to **Africa’s sustainable development** and welcome the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. We also welcome the progress made by African countries in deepening democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourage African countries to continue their efforts in this regard. We invite all Africa’s development partners, in particular developed countries, to support African countries in strengthening human capacities and democratic institutions, consistent with their priorities and objectives, with a view to furthering Africa’s development at all levels, including through facilitating the transfer of technology needed by African countries as mutually agreed. We recognize the continued efforts by African countries to create enabling environments for inclusive growth in support of sustainable development and for the **international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support these development efforts by African countries**, and welcome the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard.

191. We underscore that the global nature of **climate change** calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. We recall that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We note with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of mitigation pledges by parties in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with

having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2° C, or 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels. We recognize the importance of mobilizing funding from a variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including innovative sources of finance, to support nationally appropriate mitigation actions, adaptation measures, technology development and transfer and capacity-building in developing countries. In this regard, we welcome the launching of the Green Climate Fund and call for its prompt operationalization so as to have an early and adequate replenishment process.

223. We acknowledge that sustainable and adequate long-term funding is a key element for the sound management of chemicals and waste, in particular in developing countries. In this regard, we welcome the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and waste, initiated to consider the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority accorded to sound management of chemicals and waste, and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing for the chemicals and waste agenda.

## **VI. Means of implementation**

252. We reaffirm that the means of implementation identified in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development are indispensable for achieving the full and effective translation of sustainable development commitments into tangible sustainable development outcomes. We reiterate that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. We reaffirm that developing countries need additional resources for sustainable development. We recognize the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to promote sustainable development. We acknowledge that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

### **A. Finance**

253. We call on all countries to prioritize sustainable development in the allocation of resources in accordance with national priorities and needs, and we recognize the crucial importance of enhancing financial support from all sources for sustainable development for all countries, in particular developing countries. We recognize the importance of international, regional and national financial mechanisms, including those accessible to subnational and local authorities, to the implementation of sustainable development programmes, and call for their strengthening and implementation. New partnerships and innovative sources of financing can play a role in complementing sources of financing for sustainable development. We encourage their further exploration and use, alongside the traditional means of implementation.

254. We recognize the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to give strong support to developing countries in their efforts to promote sustainable development, including through actions undertaken in accordance with the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and for achieving sustainable development goals.

255. We agree to establish an intergovernmental process under the auspices of the General Assembly, with technical support from the United Nations system and in open and broad consultation with relevant international and regional financial institutions and other relevant

stakeholders. The process will assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks, and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives.

256. An intergovernmental committee, comprising 30 experts nominated by regional groups, with equitable geographical representation, will implement this process, concluding its work by 2014.

259. We welcome increasing efforts to improve the quality of ODA and to increase its development impact. We also recognize the need to improve development effectiveness, increase programme-based approaches, use country systems for activities managed by the public sector, reduce transaction costs and improve mutual accountability and transparency and, in this regard, we call upon all donors to untie aid to the maximum extent. We will further make development more effective and predictable by providing developing countries with regular and timely indicative information on planned support in the medium term. We recognize the importance of efforts by developing countries to strengthen leadership of their own development, national institutions, systems and capacity to ensure the best results for effective development by engaging with parliaments and citizens in shaping those policies and deepening engagement with civil society organizations. We should also bear in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee development effectiveness.

262. We recognize that greater coherence and coordination among the various funding mechanisms and initiatives related to sustainable development are crucial. We reiterate the importance of ensuring that developing countries have steady and predictable access to adequate financing from all sources to promote sustainable development.

264. We stress the need for adequate funding for the operational activities of the United Nations development system, as well as the need to make funding more predictable, effective and efficient as part of wider efforts to mobilize new, additional and predictable resources to achieve the objectives that we have set forth in the present outcome document.

265. We recognize the important achievements of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) over the past 20 years in funding environmental projects and welcome important reform processes that GEF has carried out during recent years, and we call for its further improvement and encourage GEF to take additional steps, within its mandate, to make resources more accessible to meet country needs for the national implementation of their international environmental commitments. We support further simplification of procedures and assistance to developing countries, in particular in assisting the least developed countries, Africa and small island developing States in accessing resources from GEF, and enhanced coordination with other instruments and programmes focusing on environmentally sustainable development.

267. We consider that innovative financing mechanisms can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries to mobilize additional resources for financing for development on a voluntary basis. Such financing should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing. While recognizing the considerable progress in innovative sources of financing for development, we call for a scaling-up of present initiatives, where appropriate.

### **Statement on Civil Society Participation in UN Processes related to Post 2015**

We, civil society representatives convened by CIVICUS, GCAP and Beyond 2015 at the 2012 CIVICUS World Assembly, met September 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2012 to begin discussions on the World We Want beyond 2015.

As civil society gathered here today, we affirm that we will work united and collaborate to ensure a legitimate and inclusive development framework is in place to succeed the current MDGs, that delivers lasting change in the world. We affirm that this framework must work to genuinely integrate ending poverty, ensuring environmental sustainability and promoting human rights. The framework must fully reflect the priorities and perspectives of people directly affected by poverty and inequality, the majority of whom are socially excluded populations, for example, women, children, youth and indigenous peoples. The framework should also challenge the structures, institutions and processes that perpetuate poverty.

We highly appreciate offers and commitments already made by various actors and institutions to directly engage and consult with civil society. However, we also have serious concerns about the current state of the parameters for civil society participation and engagement in the post-2015 process. In order to address our concerns, we have developed the following essential criteria to ensure meaningful civil society engagement:

1. *Civil society must be treated at parity with other stakeholders, for example the private sector.*
2. *Before engaging in consultations and providing input to any of the processes, civil society must have a commitment that all inputs will be fully considered, this includes: i) clarity on when review of CSO input is taking place ii) ensure that a response will be formulated which outlines how this input is being taken forward iii) Civil society representatives are present in discussions to support their case.*
3. *Regular interaction between decision makers and civil society representatives to ensure a 2-way communication and that the process is respected as agreed.*
4. *Consultations with civil society should take the form of face-to-face meetings with relevant decision-makers, permanently established advisory panels in addition to written input. We affirm the need to build upon and strengthen already established rules and mechanisms for civil society engagement with the UN, when developing mechanisms for civil society engagement in post 2015.*
5. *All relevant information needs to be easily and openly accessible in a timely manner to civil society.*
6. *A fully funded Civil Society platform must be in place by the end of 2012 at the latest and be supported by a relevant UN entity, for example a well resourced and strengthened UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS), and must be directly linked to the UN General Assembly President's office.*

***Civil society will not engage fully until these commitments and sufficient resources are confirmed.***

#### **To the UN Member States we recommend**

- *The intergovernmental Open Working Group on SDGs must have a clear, efficient, inclusive and transparent mechanism to engage proactively with civil society. This must be clearly outlined within their Terms of Reference.*

#### **To the UN Secretariat we recommend**

- *The UN High-level Panel of eminent persons must contain increased representation from civil society, representing civil society constituency. The High-level Panel needs to clarify immediately how they will engage with civil society as a major stakeholder, as outlined in their Terms of Reference.*

#### **To the UNDG we recommend**

- *The UNDG consultation processes currently under way (50+ national consultations, 9+ thematic consultations, global conversation) must live up to commitments already made, for example in the guidance notes to Regional Coordinators and TORs for thematic consultations to meaningfully include and resource civil society to engage at all levels and all stages.*

We appreciate efforts by UN civil society focal points and other allies to work with us to ensure a fair, inclusive and legitimate process is in place and we look forward to a response outlining how our conditions will be met.