Further

Zero Draft Declaration of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference

Bonn, Germany, 3-5 September 2011

“Sustainable Societies: Responsive Citizens”

The participants of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, assembled in Bonn, Germany, 3-5 September 2011,

Conferences and documents

Noting that the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference is a major NGO event aimed at contributing to the two volunteer-focused sessions of the UN General Assembly scheduled to take place on 5 December 2011 in New York;

Further noting that the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference also aims to inform the preparatory process towards the 2012 Rio + 20 Conference;

Reaffirming that the Rio + 20 themes of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development require active civil society engagement;

Noting the need to revisit Rio’s Agenda 21, which, in section 3.7, stresses that “sustainable development must be achieved at every level of society...Governments, in cooperation with appropriate international and non-governmental organizations, should support a community-driven approach to sustainability”;

Guided by the outcome documents of the major global summits of the 1980s and the 1990s, Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, Agenda ya Waanachi, the series of 46 Alternative civil Society Treaties developed at UNCED, the Dhaka Declaration, the IFOAM Declaration, the JPOI, as well as the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the Cochabamba Declaration;

Further guided by General Assembly Resolution 63/153 of 18 December 2008 inviting Governments, with the active support of the media, civil society and the private sector, as well as development partners and the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to carry out activities focused on marking the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteerism, in 2011, at the regional and national levels;

Bearing in mind the request to the Secretary-General of the UN to report to the UN General Assembly at its Sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the tenth anniversary of the International Year under the item entitled “Social development”;

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Further

Aware of the need for a follow-up to the 2011 tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) to be pursued by the United Nations Volunteer programme, its partners and the other relevant parts of the United Nations system;

Aware that a significant paradigm change was introduced through the Human Development Index that piloted for the first time social indicators such as education and life expectancy to measure development. Conscious that today there is an increasing focus on human well-being that emphasizes what people can do rather than what they cannot do;

Noting that the momentum created by the 2011 tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) has contributed to increase the vibrancy of volunteerism nationally, regionally and globally with the involvement of more governments, more civil society organizations, more private sector partners, and more people from a broader cross-section of societies;

General Statements

Convinced, that the equal and free access of present and future generations to natural goods such as water, land and energy and to an environment free from ecological and environmental devastation is a human right;

Recognizing that sustainable development should become the only form of development and that the parallel tracks, as we have continued to follow since 1992, need to be ended;

Acknowledging the establishment of a new way to measure the progress towards a sustainable progress with other indicators than only a country's GDP;

Alarmed at the increasing loss of biodiversity, increasing desertification acidification of the oceans, rises in food prices, lack of consistent and sustainable sources of energy for the developing world, at the drop in financing for development, collapse of glaciers, ice caps and polar ice shelves;

Acknowledging the important role of formal and non-formal education for respectful stewardship of environmental and natural resources, provided by teacher, volunteers and especially by women who are the first teachers of future generations;

Committed to promoting respect for cultural and ethnic diversity and an alliance and partnership among civilizations;

Aware of the important role the media and modern means of communication play for sensitizing a broader public;

The NGOs here present declare the following on the matters of a green economy, sustainable lifestyles, civic engagement and volunteerism:
Further

**Green Economy**

Determined, that the vast range of environmental, economic, and social impacts and crises threatening global ecosystems and human populations can be overcome by creating sustainable living patterns worldwide through a change in the production and distribution of natural and economic goods and through sustainable consumption patterns;

Alarmed by a total failure to integrate environmental, social and development priorities into global economic policies;

Bearing in mind that development has commonly been understood and analyzed in terms of macro-economic performance and corresponding quantitative indicators. Also bearing in mind that the current development model mostly focused on macro-economic performance and quantitative indicators has, for years, not taken into account social engagement and other elements of “well-being” that are at the core of sustainable human development;

Acknowledging that working towards a green economy and poverty eradication, climate justice can provide a bridge to a new global economic paradigm;

Further acknowledging that a true ‘green’ economy within a sustainable society should be an economic system that ensures social equity, protects ecological balance and creates eco-sufficiency;

**Sustainable lifestyles**

Convinced, that our planet and the human-earth community will survive, thrive and prosper by a shift to an economy that is focused on poverty eradication, an economy that is green and responsive citizens incorporating volunteerism at every level of their lifestyles;

Noting that sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods must be built on sustainable consumption and production in our globalizing world;

Further noting that sustainability can only be ensured if humanity embraces sustainable, low-carbon lifestyles and adopts sustainable livelihoods and that unsustainable consumption and production patterns have been a major contributor to climate change and poverty;

**Civic engagement**

Reaffirming that local and global citizen participation is central to resolving sustainable development governance issues. Streamlining management of multilateral environment agreements, drawing on the historical foundations of community participation and governance structures and education for sustainable development can provide deeper foundations for understanding and tackling the complex sustainability issues facing
Further humanity today. Such action can help respond to and engage with the recent social uprisings in Central Asia, Africa, Europe and the Near East to guide future democratic and social change movements;

Considering that there is a new era of civil society participation and growing self-confidence of people fighting for justice and democracy and ready to nurture and protect the environment;

Recalling that large numbers of citizens have been mobilized around the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and in other areas, such as advocacy for climate change action, literacy, debt relief, human rights, sustainable environment and violence against women. The environment movement is a civil society volunteer movement at its heart.

Further reaffirming that civic participation and volunteering have been valuable partners in a broad spectrum of peace and sustainable development activities, having as their overriding goal the eradication of poverty and the betterment of the human condition;

Recognizing that civil society has a crucial role in a fast-changing world: civic engagement and voluntary action are essential for achieving sustainability. Two decades after our Common Future was issued by the Brundtland Commission to connect environment and development concerns, the world still struggles to integrate them;

Further recognizing that greater efforts are needed to ensure that civic action and volunteerism be encouraged as indispensable elements of the sustainable development agenda of Governments and the United Nations.

Also recognizing the contribution of civil society, especially of NGO movements and volunteer alliances and associations, ready to take over responsibility in their communities;

Volunteerism

Recognizing that the implementation of the sustainable development agenda requires the everyday, voluntary actions of millions of people and civil society organizations across the globe;

Further acknowledging that volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and that it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer;

Also noting that volunteerism fosters empowerment and broad-based ownership, through which even the most disadvantaged groups can contribute to more stable and cohesive communities and sustainable societies;
Further

Recognizing that volunteerism makes significant contributions to development and peace and that appropriate policies is needed to ensure that this potential is realized;

Noting that the active engagement and responsiveness of people is frequently reflected in voluntary actions of all kinds, ranging from mutual aid or self-help; philanthropy or service to others; participation or civic engagement, to advocacy or campaigning;

Reaffirming the need to recognize and promote all forms of volunteerism so that it involves and benefits all segments of society, including women, children, young persons, students, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrants and those who remain excluded for social or economic reasons;

Recognizing, that volunteerism, as a type of non-formal education, offers opportunities for young people to take responsibility for their livelihoods, acquire skills and capacities and act as positive role models for other youth;

Recognizing the contributions and the volunteering traditions and practices of indigenous peoples who have lived sustainably for centuries;

Reaffirming that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at mobilizing communities to achieve the Millennium Development goals and, inter alia, such areas as poverty reduction, community-centered sustainable development, health, disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery and management and peacekeeping.

Further, volunteerism critically contributes to social integration, in particular, to overcoming social exclusion and discrimination;

Further recognizing that volunteerism is needs driven, is a catalyst for community centered sustainable development, is cross-cutting and contributes to different thematic areas; and

Further, volunteerism contributes to social cohesion through the effect it has on the individual volunteers as well as on society at large;

Recognizing that volunteerism offers opportunities for participation in society and is a holistic approach to empower people and acknowledge the importance of civil society organizations for the promotion of volunteerism and in that respect recognizes that strengthening the dialogue and interaction between civil society and the United Nations contributes to the expansion of volunteerism;

Noting the contributions of the UN Volunteers over the last 10 years and marking the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers;

Noting with appreciation the efforts of all UN DPI/NGO conference participants to increase awareness of volunteerism through global outreach, information sharing and education;
Further recognizing that volunteerism can help facilitate the connection between environment and development by engaging ordinary people from their communities to volunteer services and exchange skills and experiences locally and worldwide through the matching of interest and skills to needs;

**Action plan or action plan elements**

We propose that the current economy that aides inequity, destruction and greed and should be replaced by a green economy aimed towards replacing the current economic order that ensure social equity, protects the ecological balance and creates economic sufficiency; the core idea of a Green Economy should be to enforce sustainable development and enhance prosperity of all nations, ensure wellbeing of all people, and conserve biodiversity for future generations. Such a sustainable economy should integrate the following set of sustainable development goals;

**SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION:** Establishing a set of Millennium Consumption Goals for the period 2012 -2031 towards establishing an intergenerational right to equitable consumption opportunities and ensuring quality of life and wellbeing of all humans by 2030, whilst eradicating all kinds and levels of poverty and embedding sufficiency based sustainable economies.

**ENERGY:** Universal access to modern energy services by 2030, supported by having 30% of energy supply sources by 2030 by renewables.

**WATER:** The availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods, ecosystems and production, coupled with an acceptable level of water-related risks to people, environments and economies to be achieved by 2030.

**BLUE ECONOMY:** Reverse the decline of fish stocks and create sustainable and diverse and abundant fish stocks, supported by healthy habitat to provide for the needs of all users by 2030.

**FORESTRY:** Reverse the decline in forests and create sustainable and diverse forestry is compatible with maintaining forest ecosystem integrity, economically sustainable, and socially beneficial by 2030.

**URBANIZATION:** By 2030 urban areas should aim to reduce their ecological footprints by 30% on 2012 levels.

**AGRICULTURE:** By 2030 we should have sustainable food systems that provides healthy food to meet current food needs while maintaining healthy ecosystems that can also provide food for generations to come with minimal negative impact to the environment. A
Further, a sustainable food system should also encourage local production and distribution infrastructures and makes nutritious food available, accessible, and affordable to all.

ECONOMY: By 2030 governments should have progressed from a green economy towards sufficiency based sustainable economies that are designed for horizontal growth and distribution to ensure well-being of all. The foundations of such sustainable economies should be based on traditional knowledge, skills and aspirations that are rich in knowledge of biodiversity, ecologically sustainable agriculture, and indigenous crafts techniques geared towards prosperity.

Climate Sustainability: By 2050 governments should have reached clear pathways towards climate sustainability that regulates the global temperature rise below 2°C. For this a we need a radical change in our economic, production, consumption, governance and all systems that governs our behavior in a way that brings the ecological system of the planet earth into full consideration, while planning for the wellbeing of our future generations.

We expect the UNCSD2012 to establish and empower an Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development Governance (IFSD) that would help create a better world that constitutes the right of equity and wellbeing of all people, generates prosperity and flourishing of all communities, and protects all biodiversity for intergenerational sustainability. Therefore, we are proposing the following actions to be taken at the different levels of governance:

Internationally

We call for the establishment of a Council of the UN General Assembly on sustainable development, focusing in particular on emerging issues including environmental security and the issues around a sustainable economy.

Establish an Intergovernmental SCP Committee to be operated within Multi-Stakeholder Council on Sustainable Development to lead and oversee the global SCP governance process

We call on at the United Nations Economic and Social level for an interactive multi-stakeholder, government, un agency and program Forum on Sustainable Development to review implementation of sustainable development goals through a problem solving none policy forum

We call on the establishment of a Sustainable Development Board made up of the Executive bodies of UNEP, UNDP, UN Habitat, UN Women. UNICEF and WFP to oversee the Delivering as One – One country programs
Further

We call on the establishment of a World Environment Organization which would cluster the environmental conventions.

We call on the establishment of an International Environmental Court to deal with environmental disputes.

We call on the establishment of an Ombudsman for Future Generations.

We call on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Corporate Environment and Social Responsibility and Accountability.

We call on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Precautionary Principle Convention to deal with new and emerging technologies.

We call on the establishment of regional conventions on principle 10 of the Rio Declaration—access to information, public participation and environmental justice.

Nationally

We call on the establishment or reform of National Committees on SCP to be operated within the National Council for Sustainable Development with a mandate to advise all national agencies working on SCP and national representatives on the Intergovernmental SCP Mechanisms. The national councils on sustainable development should oversee the move a green economy. This council should develop a sustainable national economy plan for each Member State of the UN by 2017.

We call on regional and local governments to adopt the same approach and establish multi-stakeholder platforms and develop strategies at the appropriate level to address the development of sustainable economies in their regional and local areas by 2017.

To achieve these objectives, we call upon local authorities to establish an Office for Volunteerism in every municipality, at which citizens will be able to find out how they might bring their skills and visions to non-profit organizations both locally and globally, through information/communication technology (ICT).

We encourage stakeholders to explore the eco-sufficiency approach in the light of the “Limits to Growth”;

We invite governments to mobilize and support the research community globally to carry out more studies on the subject of volunteerism, in partnership with civil society, in order to provide sound knowledge about volunteerism as a foundation for policies and programmes;

We call on governments to create a supportive environment for the promotion of volunteerism accompanied by supportive legislative and fiscal frameworks for the growth
and development of volunteerism and encourage governments to enact such measures and
to promote volunteerism;

We welcome the recognition of the work of the United Nations Volunteer program as the
focal point for the follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers, and request it to
continue to raise awareness of the contribution of volunteerism to sustainable
development, to act as a convener on the subject for the various interested stakeholders, to
make available networking and reference resources and to provide technical cooperation
to developing countries, at their request.