



Partnership for Global Justice

July 2015

Partnership For Global Justice Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to the Partnership for Global Justice Monthly – a newsletter about PGJ programs, news from the United Nations and its briefings, and information about the activities of our participating membership. With this Monthly, we invite our members to provide updates of their social justice initiatives and share their related experiences. Please respond to this posting with a comment on our blog or send your thoughts to partnershipforglobaljustice@gmail.com.

Don't forget to register for our Annual Meeting. For more information see page 7 of our newsletter.

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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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When you receive this edition of the newsletter, I will have been the executive director of PGJ for 4 months. This means I am still developing relationships and planting seeds. All of this is a bit like watching the slow growth of the nasturtium seeds I planted earlier this month. They did germinate and are growing!

For your consideration I will review a bit of the growth I am nourishing in the Partnership for Global Justice. Contacts with current and former members continue. Plans for college and high school programs are taking shape. Research on the content for such programs is time consuming but stimulating.

A draft of a strategic plan has been prepared for presentation to members attending the Annual Meeting. Membership fees and benefits have received Board approval and are available on the website: www.partnershipforglobaljustice.com.

I continue to attend personally or by webcast some of the many conferences which the UN hosts. It seems to me that they host gatherings on every possible social issue. At times I feel overwhelmed by all the places where the UN serves, all the millions of people that are served, all the issues addressed. I look forward to the selection of PGJ areas of focus by members attending the Annual Meeting. Establishing the foci for PGJ is especially important as all countries begin mobilizing for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals/Post 2015 Agenda.

I look forward to your participation and presence at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 12 at River's Edge. The Meeting provides an opportunity for you to help make decisions that affect PGJ's future direction but also to hear some of the current thinking regarding the interaction between genes and spirituality. You most likely have more impact than you realize!

With hope for a sustainable future,

JoAnn Mark, ASC
Executive Director





PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT ON POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL LAUDATE SI'

The Partnership for Global Justice joins Pope Francis in asking for open and honest dialogue about “...our common home.” Such dialogue is needed to move the Sustainable Development Agenda of the United Nations from words on the paper to a reality in every country for “realities are more important than ideas.”

Approved by the Board of Partnership for Global Justice on July 27, 2015

Laudato Si' Praise to You, On Care For Our Common Home (24 May 2015), 5: 3

Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (24 November 2013), 231: AAS105(2013)1114



MAJOR EVENTS OF JULY 2015

Two major initiatives of the United Nations reached milestones this July: The Final Report on the Millennium Development Goals was published, and Member States began the three-step action on the Post-2015 Agenda with the Third International Conference on Funding For Development.

1. Final Report on Millennium Development Goals

On July 7, Secretary Ban Ki-Moon announced the publication of the report on what the MDGs have accomplished and what remains to be included in the SDGs. Here are a few highlights from that report. Since Goals 7 and 8 were recognized as the keys to major change, they are integrated into each Sustainable Development Goal.

For the full document, click here [www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf)

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (Targets: By 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people who live on less than one dollar a day; and By 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.)

In 1990, 47% of the population in the developing world lived on less than \$1.25 a day; that proportion dropped to 14 per cent in 2015. Globally, the number of people living in extreme poverty has declined by more than half, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015, in spite of increasing population. Most progress has occurred since 2000.

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

(Target: By 2015, ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary education.) The primary school enrolment rate in the developing regions has reached 91% in 2015, up from 83% in 2000 and 52% in 1990. Sub-Saharan Africa has had the best record of improvement, with a 20 percentage point increase from 2000 to 2015, compared to a gain of 8 percentage points between 1990 and 2000.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

(Targets: Gender parity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and at all levels by 2015. Ratio closer to one-to-one of girls to boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural jobs. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments)

Many more girls are now in school compared to 15 years ago. The developing regions as a whole have achieved the target to eliminate gender disparity in primary, secondary and tertiary education. In Southern Asia, in 1990, only 74 girls were enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys. Today, 103 girls are enrolled for every 100 boys.

Women now make up 41% of paid workers outside the agricultural sector, an increase from 35% in 1990.

Women have gained ground in parliamentary representation in nearly 90% of the 174 countries with data over the past 20 years. The average proportion of women in parliament has nearly doubled during the same period, but only one in five members is a woman.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

(Target: By 2015, reduce by two-thirds the percentage of children who die before age five.)

The global under-five mortality rate has declined by more than half, dropping from 90 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2015. Despite population growth in developing regions, the number of deaths of children under five has declined from 12.7 million in 1990 to slightly less than 6 million in 2015 globally. Measles vaccination helped prevent nearly 15.6 million deaths between 2000 and 2013; the number of globally reported measles cases declined by 67% for the same period.



Goal 5: Improve maternal health

(Target: By 2015, reduce by three-quarters the percentage of women who die in pregnancy and childbirth)

Since 1990, the maternal mortality ratio has declined by 45% worldwide; most of the reduction has occurred since 2000. In Southern Asia, the maternal mortality ratio declined by 64% between 1990 and 2013, and in sub-Saharan Africa it fell by 49%.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

(Targets: By 2015, halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, and of malaria and other major diseases.)

New HIV infections fell by approximately 40% between 2000 and 2013, from an estimated 3.5 million cases to 2.1 million. By June 2014, 13.6 million people living with HIV were receiving antiretroviral therapy globally, up from just 800,000 in 2003, averting 7.6 million deaths from AIDS between 1995 and 2013.

Over 6.2 million malaria deaths have been averted between 2000 and 2015, primarily of children under five years of age in sub-Saharan Africa. The global malaria incidence rate has fallen by an estimated 37% and the mortality rate by 58%. More than 900 million insecticide-treated mosquito nets were delivered to malaria-endemic countries in sub-Saharan Africa between 2004 and 2014. Between 2000 and 2013, tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis and treatment interventions saved an estimated 37 million lives; the mortality rate fell by 45% and the prevalence rate by 41% between 1990 and 2013.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

(Targets: By 2015, integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources. By 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to drinking water. By 2020, achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers)

Ozone-depleting substances have been virtually eliminated since 1990; the ozone layer is expected to recover by the middle of this century. Terrestrial and marine protected areas in many regions have increased substantially since 1990. In Latin America and the Caribbean, coverage of terrestrial protected areas rose from 8.8% to 23.4% between 1990 and 2014.

In 2015, 91% of the global population has an improved drinking water source, compared to 76% in 1990. Of the 2.6 billion people who have gained access to improved drinking water since 1990, 1.9 billion gained access to piped drinking water on premises. Over half of the global population (58%) now have water piped in.

Worldwide, 2.1 billion people have gained access to improved sanitation. The proportion of people practicing open defecation has fallen almost by half since 1990.

The proportion of urban population living in slums in the developing regions fell from approximately 39.4% in 2000 to 29.7% in 2014, in spite of increased population in urban areas.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

(Targets included a wide range of reforms of the trading [i.e., the World Trade Organization] and the financial systems [e.g., private capital flows and international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund] so that poor countries can obtain the financial resources needed to create stable, growing economies that lift people out of poverty; resolve the problem of unpayable debt for the world's poorest countries; develop decent and productive work for youth and access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries; make available the benefits of new technology.)

Official development assistance from developed countries increased by 66% between 2000 and 2014, reaching \$135.2 billion. In 2014, Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom continued to exceed the United Nations official development assistance target of 0.7% of gross national income.

In 2014, 79% of imports from developing to developed countries were admitted duty free, up from 65% in 2000. The proportion of external debt service to export revenue in developing countries fell from 12% in 2000 to 3% in 2013.

As of 2015, 95% of the world's population have access to a mobile-cellular signal. The number of mobile-cellular subscriptions has grown from 738 million [in 2000 to over 7 billion in 2015]. Internet access has grown from just over 6% of the world's population in 2000 to 43%. As a result, 3.2 billion people are linked to a global network of content and applications.





2. United Nations Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia July 13-16, 2015 website: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/>



At the conclusions of this conference, the world’s nations adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which “contains a series of bold measures to overhaul global finance practices and generate investments for tackling a range of economic, social and environmental challenges,” according to the UN News Centre; “the document addresses all sources of finance, and covers cooperation on a range of issues including technology, science, innovation, trade and capacity building.” Included in the document are “a comprehensive set of policy actions with a package of over 100 concrete measures and some concrete deliverables.”

One major development was the recommitment of Member States to dedicate 0.7% of their Gross National Income to official development assistance (ODA). This amount was first pledged in 1970 by General Assembly Resolution; only a few nations have reached that goal. (See [chart](#))

Other initiatives are the agreement to set up a Technology Facilitation Mechanism during the September meetings on the SDGs and “an annual financing for development forum and an inter-agency task force which will report annually on progress in implementing the FFD outcomes.”

Another major advance is the commitment to “achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive, and equitable economic growth and sustainable development.”

On another major issue, climate change, the Agenda calls on developed countries to mobilize \$100 billion per year by 2020 to assist developing countries and Member States pledged to “phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that lead to wasteful consumption.”



REMINDERS OF MEETINGS

Don't forget to register for our **Annual Meeting** on September 12-13 at River's Edge in Cleveland. See below for details.

The Paris Conference on Climate Change will be held from November 30 through December 11, 2015. If you have members in the area who might attend, see the programs of events and registration information:

http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/ngo/items/3667.php

If any of your members attend, please have them report to us on their experience!

World Humanitarian Day: August 19

<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanitarianday/>

<http://www.worldhumanitarianday.org/>

OUR ANNUAL MEETING

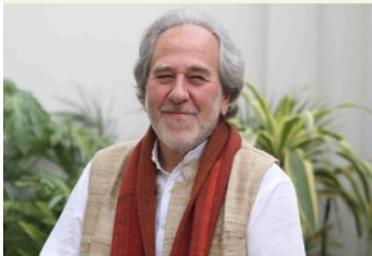
Please join us for our annual meeting which will feature a meeting with membership and an exciting presentation from Bruce H. Lipton, PHD. Dr. Lipton will be speaking on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at River's Edge in Cleveland, OH.

Come hear from cell biologist and bestselling author, Bruce H. Lipton, as he takes us on a fast-passed journey from the microcosm of the cell to the macrocosm of the mind. The new science of how consciousness and spirituality interface biology reveals how our thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs create the conditions of our body and our place in the world. Dr. Lipton's presentation entitled "The 'New' Biology: The Science of Creating Heaven on Earth" will certainly be a fascinating faith and educational journey, so please join us.

To learn more about the event, please visit <http://www.partnershipforglobaljustice.com/annual-meeting.html> to view our flyer with specific details about the event. More information, including registration information, will be forthcoming.

THE "NEW" BIOLOGY: THE SCIENCE OF CREATING HEAVEN ON EARTH

with Bruce H. Lipton, PhD.



8:30am: Registration
9:00am - 4:00pm

Saturday, September 12

Join cell biologist and bestselling author, Bruce H. Lipton, as he takes you on a fast-paced journey from the microcosm of the cell to the macrocosm of the mind. The new science of how consciousness and spirituality interface biology reveals how our thoughts, attitudes and beliefs create the conditions of our body and our place in the world.



Dates to

Remember:

[August 10 Deadline to register for Annual Meeting](#)

<http://www.partnershipforglobaljustice.com/annual-meeting.html>

JULY AT THE UN

July is usually a quiet month at the UN, but with the Financing for Development Conference scheduled for July 13-16 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), the General Assembly review and hoped-for acceptance of the Sustainable Development Goals set for September, and the major summit on Climate Change scheduled for December in Paris, there have been meetings just about every hour. Many were “Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Outcome Document,” at which nations or regions would press for attention to the needs of their people. Here are just two reports, to give you the flavor of discussions.

1. Small Island Developing States

One of these was a session titled “Genuine Durable Partnerships: Combatting Climate Change,” sponsored by the Small Island Developing Nations (SIDS). (Or, as one ambassador quipped, his country could be called a “large ocean nation.” Some are thousands of square miles but have populations only in the tens of thousands. Kiribati, for instance, consists of 33 coral atolls, 21 of them inhabited. Total land mass is 313 square miles, with islands and fishing rights to more than a million square miles of ocean. Population is about 100,000. Palau claims over 500 islands, with just under 21,000 people.)

These tiny nations are already suffering greatly from the rise in temperatures and increased and intensity of storm activity. **President Anote Tong of Kiribati** mentioned the extremely high tides and great damage from a recent cyclone. So much damage was done to the land and homes that it is difficult for the affected people to find a place to move to. Also, as the sea water intrudes farther onto the islands, drinkable water becomes contaminated; in many places providing drinkable water is becoming impossible.

In a lighter tone (but with heart-wrenching words), President Tong lauded Pope Francis’ encyclical but added that he wished the Pope had said that those who will not cooperate on serious climate change action would not go to heaven. He also declared that the December Paris conference (at which nations will pledge to make changes) will be a “test of what humanity is. . . how humane are we?”

President Tong also urged action to plan for peaceful migration – with dignity -- and resettlement for those who are already or will certainly be forced to leave their homelands because of rising oceans. He challenged leaders of other countries to hire Kiribati natives – “They want to work!” He spoke of the need for partnerships with not only governments but also foundations and corporations to support them.

Mary Robinson, president of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Climate Change, expressed hope that, as the SIDS are the first to experience the effects of climate change, they will be first to receive substantial aid at the Financing for Development conference in Addis Ababa. She stressed the need for global action, looking at the whole Earth, not just small regions, and for long-term solutions. If we set our minds to the task, as we did to space shots, she suggested, perhaps we could find a way to keep the people on their islands, with their own identity and sovereignty.

Tony Debrun of the Marshall Islands stressed the urgency of need – 2020 will be too late to start. He pressed the United States, in particular, to use the Nuclear Trust Fund, since the people were moved to these islands to allow the United States to test nuclear weapons. Nuclear waste left here also poses a problem; much was not sufficiently cleared up, and protective domes are being threatened by the rising waves.

Immediate low-tech solutions could ease the stress of rising water and prevent greater damage later. Also, since much of the world’s tuna is caught here, simple investment could construct processing plants to provide jobs. Thermal energy production would also be profitable, with a small amount of investment.



JULY AT THE UN...CONTINUED

2. One series of meetings was the **2015 High-Level Political Forum On Sustainable Development**. On Tuesday, July 7, “**Communicating and implementing a universal agenda at home**” looked at the intricacies of generating useful data and interest among the people by seeing the relevance of the SDGs to local as well as global needs.

On data, **Costa Rica’s Minister of Social Development, Carlos Alvarado Quesada**, spoke of difficulties resulting from defining poverty by income, as no Ministry or Department has authority over “poverty,” making responsibility for change difficult to assign. He suggests using other measures, such as education, health care, housing, labor, and social protections, all of which are under current ministries, which can take action.

He also stressed the importance of detailed local data; in a district where one community has a 40% poverty rate and another 0%, the average would show only 17% poverty in the district, thereby hindering service to those in the needier community.

Poland’s Deputy Minister of Environment, Piotr Otawski, spoke of asking the right questions to draw people into the SDG process: for instance, what local benefits can this global goal generate? He also mentioned the need to create a sense of pride for accomplishing the necessary shifts.

Jim Clarken, Executive Director of Oxfam, Ireland, agreed and stressed the importance of demonstrating to wealthy persons and corporations the benefits accomplishing the SDGs can bring.

Ibrahim Thiaw, UN Environmental Programme Deputy Executive Director, and one of the young UN officials, spoke of the need to integrate sustainability and other goals in accomplishing the SDGs, encouraging the NGOs to “provide the science and argue the science into policy-making.” The main concerns of youth are jobs and the future – think about tomorrow when making any policy or program.

Brenda King, representative to ECOSOC from the European Union, argued that the role of NGOs will be more important as implementation of the SDGs begins, to ensure that all stakeholders are involved in the processes and share the benefits of change.

ADVOCACY

1. Partnership Joins in Call Not to Legalize Sex Trade

PGJ was among national and international human rights advocates, women's rights organizations, faith-based and secular organizations, and concerned individuals, among them survivors of sex trafficking, who asked the Board of Amnesty International not to support a proposal to legalize sex trade.

Acknowledging Amnesty’s good intentions – to lessen risk of HIV/AIDS and other health risks of prostitution – the signers point to catastrophic increases in sex trafficking and consequent exploitation of women from poorest countries in Eastern Europe and the Global South in Germany and the Netherlands after such legislation was enacted early in this century. They also noted that Amnesty’s history as a primary defender of human rights would be damaged by supporting such legislation.

2. Partnership Supports Extension of DACA and DAPA

The Partnership also signed on to a letter in support of extending DACA (“The Dream Act”) and DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents, or Deferred Action for Parental Accountability), two of President Obama’s programs for immigrant children brought to this country and to their parents.

