



Partnership for Global Justice

May 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.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There have been many meetings at the UN during May. Of particular interest are those related to the Sustainable Development Agenda and Funding for Development. These calls for radical changes will, hopefully, truly make our living "sustainable." In an effort to obtain the support of all governments, civil societies, and the public and private business sectors, there have been and will continue to be opportunities for input even though the final draft must be ready for the September meeting of the General Assembly.

“These calls for radical changes will, hopefully, truly make our living sustainable”.

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I hope you will be able to join other members of Partnership for Global Justice for our Annual Meeting on September 12 in Cleveland. At that time we will be making decisions about future directions for the Partnership and will share our perspectives on the Sustainable Development Agenda. Meanwhile, I encourage you to keep these historic movements in prayer.

JoAnn Mark, ASC
Executive Director





NOTEWORTHY ANNIVERSARIES

The UN planted a white weeping cherry tree, **Tree of Peace and Unity**, on May 5th to mark the **70th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War**. This year also marks the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the UN.

For the UN news story and link to video of the ceremony:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50770#.VWi2MkbbwVQ>

On May 12, the UN Security Council reviewed progress in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** since the **peace agreement** was signed 20 years ago. The webcast is available at <http://webtv.un.org/search/bosnia-and-herzegovina-security-council-7440th-meeting>



UPDATE ON PREPARING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



During this past week, May 18-22, Co-facilitators of the Post 2015 Agenda Negotiations, Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, and David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland, led the final negotiations before preparing the “zero draft” of the Agenda to be presented to the General Assembly for

approval by the Member States. The “zero draft” is scheduled to be completed by June 1 and will be discussed at three subsequent sets of meetings on June 22-24, July 20-24 and July 27-31

Read the Co-facilitators’ overview of the process at <http://sd.iisd.org/news/co-facilitators-propose-modalities-for-post-2015-negotiations/>

This week’s meetings comprise one of the final stages in preparing the Sustainable Development Goals document for adoption by the General Assembly at the September 2015 summit.

The Co-facilitators have based their work on the Open Working Group’s proposal and other contributions, to which millions of people contributed, on line and through presentations and written statements. The Member State negotiations have centered on the concepts and aims, rather than on the language. However, a few objections to language were raised on Friday; for instance, several Arab nations proposed that “people in vulnerable situations” or “the vulnerable” be used, rather than “vulnerable groups.” Now the Co-facilitators will compose a draft for review in the next two months.

The “zero draft” – a preliminary to the first draft, and presumably more open to amendment – will contain the four main components of the document to be sent to the General Assembly for adoption: an Introductory Declaration; a list of the Sustainable Development Goals, their targets, and indicators; Means of Implementation and a new Global Partnership; and a Framework for monitoring and review of implementation. This latter piece is being prepared by the UN Statistical Commission. Another key piece – finding sources of funding to make the Goals possible – will be negotiated at the Funding For Development meeting in Addis Ababa in July.

For a comprehensive view of the Post-2015 Agenda process, see http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/mdg_goals/post-2015-development-agenda/

For a more informal “hub for ideas, debate and resources on what comes after the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)” see <http://post2015.org/>



FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT



**FINANCING FOR
DEVELOPMENT**
13-16 JULY 2015 • ADDIS ABABA • ETHIOPIA
TIME FOR GLOBAL ACTION

The Third International Conference of Funding For Development (FFD) will be held on July 13-15, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



This Conference will tackle the question of how to finance the work of Sustainable Development for the next fifteen years. Participants will consider “whether it relies on traditional public and concessional financing or on a new enabling environment with innovative means of financing that include more coordination among governments and greater involvement of the private sector,” to quote FFD’s website. Member States will agree on what and how each will contribute to the financing of the Post-2015 Agenda.

With the Sustainable Development Goals document, the recommendations for measuring progress toward the Goals being planned by the United Nations Statistical Commission, and the results of the Climate Change Conference in Paris this December, the Funding For Development Conference will shape the ways Member States will address the eradication of poverty and promotion of a more just, equitable, and peaceful world in the next fifteen years.

For fuller discussion of the Conference and the issues, see <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/blog/2015-key-sustainable-development.html>

To register for the conference, see <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/conference/registration.html>



PARTNERSHIP ADDS ITS VOICE TO CALL FOR ENDING NUCLEAR ARMS



The Partnership for Global Justice has signed on to the Peace and Planet petition urging those assessing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to press for an end to nuclear weapons.

The petition was part of a three-day “Mobilization for a Nuclear-Free, Just, and Sustainable World.” More than 8 million people and organizations signed the petition to present to the 2015 Review Conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. That group met from April 27 through May 22 at the United Nations in New York.

REVIEW CONFERENCE FOR THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

The Review Conference, attended by 162 Member States who have signed the treaty, was charged with assessing progress toward implementing terms of the Treaty, including reducing the number of and preventing spread of nuclear arms.

Although the Member States involved in the Review were unable to reach consensus on a substantive outcome, the terms of the Treaty remain in force. This means that nuclear-armed States must work toward decreasing the number of their weapons, and States that do not have such weapons are bound not to acquire them.

The basis of disagreement, led by the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada, involved nuclear weapons in the Middle East. One major step forward at the conference was Israel’s presence at the month-long conference, a first. Since Israel has not signed the Treaty, it could attend only as an observer.

For the Reuters news account of the situation, see: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/23/us-mideast-nuclear-un-idUSKBN072J220150523>



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.

If you have community members in Ethiopia or nearby, please encourage them to attend the **Third International Conference of Funding For Development** July 13-15, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Please have them report to us on their experience!

For more information and to register, see <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/conference/registration.html>

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!

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.

Saturday, September 12



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

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.



ANTI-TRAFFICKING UPDATE: JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT PASSES

The United States has taken another major step to combat one of the crimes both our country and rest of the world face. On May 19, the House of Representatives voted 420 to 3 (with 9 who did not vote) to passed the **Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act**; the Senate passed it with 99 votes for, none against, and one not voting. Two days later the bill was presented to President Obama for his signature, which is still pending.

The bill extends some previous legislation and adds training for personnel involved in various profession that encounter, discover or care for victims of human trafficking, funding for data collection, investigation both in cyberspace and on the ground, services for victims, liability – including confiscation of property – for perpetrators, oversight groups, and funding for all the provisions and groups working against human trafficking.

For full text of the bill, see <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/178>

WEBSITE SPOTLIGHT

The Partnership for Global Justice has a website filled with information, resources, and connections through our NGO status at the United Nations. To access our website please visit www.partnershipforglobaljustice.com.



One of the most accessed and most used pages on our website is our blog. Our blog has the most up to date information about what's happening at the UN, including reflections on briefings, updates to members, and various news and announcements. Our new Executive Director, JoAnn Mark, as well as PGJ volunteer Doretta Cornell both actively contribute to our blog.

To visit our blog simply go to www.partnershipforglobaljustice.com/blog

In addition, our website has a listing of some of our past and present programs. As an active organization at the United Nations, we are constantly engaging members, religious communities, colleges and universities, as well as elementary and a high school students. Some of our programs include our Annual Meeting, UN Orientation Programs, and programs developed specifically for college and university age students.

