

## IPS : OVERVIEW OF WORK AT THE UN IN NYC FROM MAY 2014-MAY 2017

Here is a report on what we have tried to achieve at the UN, how we went about it; what the outcome has been and what I see as our next steps for the work of IPS at the UN in New York.

It is always a challenge to translate spiritual concepts in words that are acceptable at the UN. Here is our attempt. We often use the wording that follows in our statements.

### Vision

A world

- based on caring, sharing, benevolence and community;
- in which all people (co-)govern their own lives at all levels,,: individual, family, community, national and global levels, each contributing to the whole and receiving what they need in return to be able to flourish (we also refer to this as a commons); and
- all people can fulfill their individual potential in harmony with Nature (we mean here, guided by the spiritual dimension that is the underpinning of all religions.)

### Means

1. Working closely with like-minded individuals and NGOs to form larger networks of influence
2. Enabling input of ideas to UN and its Member States from people worldwide to help a world emerge that is in keeping with our vision
3. Doing so while we live the principles we are promoting at the UN: caring, sharing, communication, shared decision making and team work; and living in harmony with Nature.

### Activities

- Outreach to like-minded individuals and organizations to let them know how we can help them be heard at the global level via the UN and its Member States.
- Regular strategy meetings (on average once a month) to assess the input our coworkers have to offer and how this can best be fed into the UN System and distributed *within* Governments of UN Member States.
- Formulation of the projects we take on into a form that fits the various venues chosen. This can be
  - letters to heads of State and Government; UN Ambassadors; delegates we have a special relationship with; UN experts working in the UN Secretariat; fellow Civil Society Organizations;
  - reports
  - wording for UN documents
  - oral or written statements given at UN conferences.
- Submission of these materials through the various venues, while showing the full weight behind them. This can involve working with those writing statements for the SG, etc. such as Ms. Mohammed who wrote reports in the name of the Secretary General on sustainable development; submitting ideas and best practices when the UN is writing reports; giving oral statements whenever possible, often unscheduled, submitting written statements when asked by the UN; co-authoring statements to be submitted by the NGO Major Group, the NGO Committee on Financing, etc. writing fairly lengthy unsolicited reports for which we gather endorsers.
- Attendance at UN Meetings where we speak, discuss issues with delegates and pass out our materials.
- Attendance of side events and conferences by UN Member States. Including Haiti, Germany's Festival of Ideas and the C20 conference in Berlin, and the C20 conference in Berlin, providing input on financing to the G20.

- Attendance of a conferences by fellow NGOs: including in Belgium on Cooperatives, in India on the work we do at the UN, and regular conferences in the Netherlands.
- Creation of groups and networks to lend weight to our work. In this context IPS co-founded: *Commons Action for the United Nations*, which then, upon the request of UN colleagues to *the Commons Cluster of the UN NGO Major Group*; and the *Partnership on the Rights of Nature: Integrating Nature in the Implementation of the SDGs*. The latter was particularly important because it combines academics, UN lobbyists, Indigenous Peoples and Nature Communicators as a way of legitimizing our views on Nature and the SDGs. We often sign off with the name of the network and have mention of endorsing organizations separately.
- Forming relationships that conform to the needs of the emerging new world
- Creation of initiatives that can function as a tool for the emerging world to be born. The most important tool we are working on is Sustainably Wise. (See below.)

### **Our NYC-based IPS Team: Lessons learned**

I was in a privileged position as member of the IPS team in NYC for the larger part of the past 3 years to live in NYC to be able to dedicate myself fully to our work at the UN. Few others were as fortunate.

I was able to attend all relevant UN meetings and play an extremely active role in the development of the SDGs. This activity eventually paid off in the type of response and trust we were able to build up with delegates and members of the Secretariat. I was asked to submit wording both by the Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group that was developing the Sustainable Development Goals; and by several delegates including France and Mexico. I was able to build close working relationships with a number of Ambassadors and delegates that were a great help in being heard and getting our ideas across.

IPS had kindly granted me the say on who would be on our team. I chose my fellow team members with the following in mind:

1. People who would have sufficient time and interest to fully share the work and decision making. Rob Wheeler who does not represent IPS and Akiwa Gizzel and her team of young interns who represented the IPS for some length of time were extremely valuable co-workers. Rob continues to be my right hand. I have unfortunately lost touch with Akiwa.
2. Young people who were eager for experience to absorb what is going on and do things as they feel ready. I expected very little here and often they would end up accompanying me as I would sit in UN meetings or as I spoke with delegates. Some of our youth team would help us to send out messages via our social media--Facebook and Twitter; and distribute our hand-outs with great charm. That was a true contribution.
3. People who were motivated to do something at the UN, but whose first priority was not necessarily our work, but a private interest to get a foot in the door at the UN and making contacts for their own private pursuits. While these have often been inspiring people and there is no harm in giving a helping hand, these relationships almost inevitably ended up causing a conflict of interest and actually sabotaging our work and the contacts we had nurtured.
4. I am including the impressive reports written by my present team members for which I am most grateful.
5. Administrative help with mailings and Social Media. For the past 8 months Taede Veenstra has taken over the mailing lists and social media outreach. We send out our announcements now regularly via a new mailing system—Mail Chimp—and Facebook, Linked In and Twitter. We are steadily developing a powerful and extremely useful tools under his steady and methodical work. Taede is also fearless when it comes to speaking to high ranking people. He speaks Dutch, but no English.

### **Reflections on next steps**

It has been my privilege to work these past three years with exceptionally gifted team members who each have much to offer as a person and as a professional to our UN work at the UN. The more we improve our team work, the more we shall be able to truly build on what each team member has to offer. The next challenge which we are all attempting to learn to meet is to be consistent, do what we say we will do, consult with one another and do as much as possible as a part of the team so that we build on the amazing qualities of each team member. This is not easy.

### Areas of Focus

#### Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Transforming our World.

**Chief IPS Leaders: Lisinka Ulatowska, Akiwa Gizzel and her team of young interns. Other IPS UN reps participated for brief periods.**

Building personal connections within the UN and with Member States.

I moved to NYC for a large part of the negotiations. This was extremely important for the work. I was able to oversee the changing members of the IPS team and built extremely important relationships with Governments. Giving varied and consistent input, over time and being seen to be present at each of the meetings is an extremely powerful tool when it comes to being heard and taken seriously.

- We attended meetings and gave input at every phase of the process, leading to the formulation of the 17 goals and 169 targets, as well as *the 2030 Agenda, Transforming Our World* as a whole. During the monthly meetings, meetings with the Co-Chairs were held daily for input by NGOs. We made use of these meetings extensively to get our ideas across. We built a positive relationship with both Co-Chairs to write wording for the Final Agreement.
- We held two side events:
  1. organized by our team member Akiwa Gizzel. Here we made a firm connection with Rene Orellana Halkyer (Bolivia) who was the Chief negotiator for the G77.
  2. Organized by me with the help of Rob Wheeler with much work also being done by Akiwa and her team of young people. This was a *Sharing economies* where we had Brazil, France, Rwanda, Roberto Burrero, Organizing Partner of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group and several other NGOs as speakers. Marilyn Fowler wrote an impressive report on all the speeches given which we then sent around to all of the UN Ambassadors. We had it web cast and the video is in the UN archives and also we have a copy on our web site. The personal connections proved to be extremely useful for both the Co-Chairs and as a result of their participation in our side event, governments approached me to write text for the draft 2030 Agreement.

#### **What was so very amazing about what happened at the UN itself, during the work on the Goals.**

1. Although a small committee was envisaged (30 Governments, I believe) all wanted to be a part of the negotiations and so Nations who were not members of the Committee approached Committee members and begged to be able to share their place. In the end almost all UN Member States actually participated. The room was always full. Almost each place on the committee was shared by 3-5 nations. These then would have to agree on what they would say. And then each would take the turn to speak the agreed text. Member States were so eager to participate that you got the most incredible combinations: India and Pakistan, for instance. (In the Netherlands, I do not have my notes on those meetings. They are in the USA.) This was an AMAZINGLY integrative process!
2. During the conferences that were held once a month for at least a week, the room was FULLY filled, no one got up and got coffee. You could hear a pin drop.
3. Huge interests were at stake and so every so often one or more nations would erupt and try

and move the process from the deliberative one (we all together) to negotiations (us/them). Every time the Co-Chairs, Ambs Kamau (Kenya) and Korosi (Hungary) and later Amb. Donaghue of Ireland, were able to bring proceedings back to considering all the ramifications of each topic and how all topics were related. As therapists I felt humbled. These Co-Chairs were geniuses. Instead of feeling drained as I always do at UN and other (mental) conferences, I was nurtured and energized and came away even after a whole week or more of hugely long sessions and tiring commutes deeply energized and inspired..

4. During the last session the normal skeletons dominated the negotiations: Israel and the occupied territories; womens' reproductive health; --- and the negotiations started at 9 am on Friday and went on until noon on Saturday. The cafeteria closed at 2:30 on Friday and people were not tired!! In the end Amb, Kamau said: “***I suggest we adopt the agreement by acclaim***”. The SDGs were adopted. Since then it has become abundantly clear that these goals and targets are so well designed and interconnected that you can't remove or change anything without changing everything else. The 2030 Agenda is universally recognized as a brilliant document.
5. Two other topics had to be negotiated that for decades have gone no-where: ***Financing*** and ***Climate Change***. Both series of negotiations were inspired by and made use of the approaches taken by the Ambs Kamau, Korosi and Donaghue, and have for the first time managed to produce agreements that are considered break-throughs.

### **Outcome in terms of our goals**

After months of work both in and around these conferences it is hard to say which wording comes from where. But almost everything we had aimed for is there, if not with the precise wording we had suggested, then in spirit. Even Internet access is mentioned although we were pushing for ***universal*** access to the Internet.

What is more, the inclusion of civil society in all but final decision making was impressive and that same inclusiveness was also adopted by the Financing and Climate Change conferences and is still being adopted by countries like Germany which has this past year organized a number of sessions for NGOs to give input to their German policies and also that of the G20 of which they are currently president.

Perhaps the most important outcome was the proof that 2-3 deeply spiritual and loving people can guide the most challenging negotiations and build such an atmosphere of caring and love that the whole political process is transformed at the global level. This process was so impressive that the chairs of subsequent summits adopted the same procedures. Even though they did not have the same touch, they produced startlingly successful results, using the goals and the content of ***Transforming Our World*** as the blueprint on which to work, thereby introducing the deep insight into ***Financing for Development***, that all we do is interconnected and that we have to approach our work holistically.

### **Financing for Development and Technology Transfer**

**Participant for the IPS: Lisinka Ulatowska working closely with colleague Rob Wheeler on an early form of Sustainably Wise; and alternative financing mechanisms.**

There were three different contexts in which we worked here:

#### **1. The NGO Committee on Financing**

This focussed on giving input into the UN processes. It was good to be with colleagues but not a great deal actually got submitted, considering that it met once a week.

#### **2. The Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.**

This met regularly but as NGOs we were invited to join them only twice and were then given an opportunity to speak. I mentioned that the Commons Cluster had a document with 70 pages of financing mechanisms which is already in IPS possession.. The Co-Chair, Mansur Mukhtar asked me to send it to him and I did. It was then sent out to all members of the committee and when I

spoke to them, they had actually printed it out and studied it.

It is hard to say where the ideas mentioned in the report originated, but a number of the financing approaches we mention such as micro-finance and cooperative banks, environmental accounting and paying for use of natural resources and the repeated emphasis on the need to explore innovative financing are certainly points that are emphasized in the materials we sent them.

### **3. Negotiations leading to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to the Technology Transfer Mechanism.**

We were extremely active in the discussion leading to the Final Document, but none of us went to Addis Ababa. It was extremely expensive. This Agenda (the Final Document) became a summary of all the documents mentioned above—that of *Transforming our World* and the SDGs; and that of the *Special Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing*. In this context, we had repeatedly drawn attention to the need for universal access to the Internet and the importance of the sharing economy. The digital divide was mentioned in the Final Document and also knowledge sharing between stakeholders in areas relating to the SDGs. We had also handed out leaflets describing the web site that is now called *Sustainably Wise*. Parts of this plan were mentioned with regard to the *Technology Transfer Mechanism*. But nothing as comprehensive as we suggested. With regard to financing, the active ingredient that had not been in previous financing agreements was the *interconnections between every single thing all of us are trying to achieve*. By seeing the interconnections of all the issues and challenges we are dealing with, a radical change takes place in how Nations relate to one another. No longer can they see their issue as important and in contrast to those backed by others. All now agree that what one group wants is an integral part and related to what their former opponents want. And so we get a unity in action that has greatly helped the partnership concept as a way of getting things done and financing them.

**Synthesis, as these areas of focus become integrated and build on the work on the SDGs.**

In this way, the synthesis we seek has been taking place before our eyes.

I have the impression that the move to separatism that is taking place worldwide is a reaction to this fast movement toward global synthesis, as those who did not embrace it fully seek to hold back until they can be more clear on what this move entails.

#### **Nature and Sustainable Development**

**Leaders Maia Kincaid, PhD, of the International School for Nature Communication;**

**Lisinka Ulatowska, MA, PhD, IPS UN Rep.**

**Dr. Marilyn Fowler, MA, PhD, IPS UN Rep.**

**Jill Lowri, MA, Msc., IPS UN Rep.**

**Rob Wheeler, UN Rep of the Global Ecovillage Network.**

**Joan Kehoe**

**Several other participants, including: Lori Johnston, Southeastern Peoples and others who have occasionally represented the IPS at the UN in NYC.**

**Anne Poelina of Indigenous Peoples in Australia.**

#### **Background and challenges**

Although Nature is one of the three main pillars of the SDGs, it became clear as early as April that Nature was not mentioned with the same ease as the economy and society. This reminded us of the fact that in the Millennium Development Goals, Nature was left behind. This makes sense: humans themselves create society and the economy. They can stand outside of these, analyze them and look at them “rationally”. This is comfortable because it is the dominant Western way of looking and dealing with problems: left brain.

But we can not stand outside of Nature, we are an integral part of Nature. The atmosphere, the lithosphere, the biosphere and the hydrosphere supply the air, material, life and water that together form the building blocks of the human being. We can not separate ourselves and look objectively at

Nature. To come to grips with where our relationship with Nature is destructive we must use our intuitive as well as rational faculties. We must use the brain in an integrated fashion. And this is not the way the predominant scientific model works (which is at present dominated by Western ways of using the mind.)

The problem is increased, because intuition is associated with “second class” people who are seen as “irrational”, namely women and “primitive” peoples; and therefore not as legitimate as those who stand out for their rational ability: men. By legitimizing the use of intuition, we are turning the present power structures upside down, placing women and “primitive” peoples next to men. On a personal note: I was just turning 75 and was given a trip of my own choosing as a present. I decided to see if I could learn to speak with Nature and then somehow introduce what I learned into the negotiations at the UN. I realized that utmost caution was required if we were not to lose credibility as an organization. There was a double challenge here: to bring the voice of Nature into the implementation of the SDGs, to do it without letting anyone know that we were taking direct communication with Nature seriously and still to make it known that this is something that all people can do and that it must become mainstream.

### **Attempt to resolve the problem**

I checked the Internet and found Dr. Maia Kinkaid. She has a doctorate and functions as animal communicator and educator in the process of animal communication via the Internet. She struck me as a person who was deeply dedicated to her work with enormous integrity. Eventually she agreed to take me on as a student and for 12 days we went on excursions into the High Desert around Sedona, AZ and spoke with animals and plants for between 3-7 hours a day and afterward I would be given daily homework to go into the desert alone or communicate with plants and animals we had met that day on topics often relating to the SDGs. At the end, it was clear to me that the information I was getting did not come from my own knowledge. Maia and I made a film looking back on our experiences and decided to connect our networks and produce reports on *Rights of Nature and Integrating Nature in the Implementation of the SDGs*.

### **Creating a Partnership**

When I got back I was able to gather a few people who were interested and so did Maia. And we began to write reports, choosing the SDGs according to the topics of upcoming UN conferences. To further legitimize these efforts, we jumped at the opportunity to create a UN-registered Partnership, mentioned officially on a UN web site. We reached out to other organizations and asked them to participate. Here our IPS UN rep, Prof. Dr. Marilyn Fowler led the way. She arranged with the Chancellor for *John F. Kennedy University* to join. She is a Professor and Head of the Department on *Consciousness and Sustainable Development* there and in fact conducts vision quests. Through her efforts, the *California Institute for Integral Studies* also joined. Marilyn has also taken on the final edit of almost all of our Reports.

Since those of us who are most often on the editing team for the most part have one or two graduate degrees, the members of our *Partnership: Rights of Nature: Integrating Nature into the Implementation of the SDGs*, can be seen as legitimized from both the Nature communications perspective and also from the Western Scientific perspective.

Others who have most often given input to all of the Reports include Rob Wheeler, Joan Kehoe and our IPS UN Team member Jill Lauri. Jill regularly gives input and helps with the editing and on one occasion when Marilyn was unavailable, she did the final editing of Report 4—on Education. Myra Jackson wrote most of the introduction to our Report on SDG 14, oceans.

Lori Johnston, of the Indigenous Southeastern Peoples (situated within the US) who has also at times represented the IPS at the UN is also a member. And so is Anne Poelina of *Majala* who represents an Australian Indigenous tribe. As we work increasingly closely with Indigenous Peoples, my heart is heavy for the terrible life-threatening conditions they are constantly contending with. Even today their people are being murdered.

Every time diverse other organizations endorse our Reports.

### **Our process**

- Every month, we meet and have a Nature Communications Workshop. All are welcome to join. Maia offers these to those of us associated with our UN initiative. During Commons Cluster strategy meetings we decide on which SDG to dedicate our next Report to. At present we are working on SDG 3—*Health and Well-being*.
- We then set up a public writing pad online and publicize the link so that all who are interested can participate in writing the report. Participants do their daily Nature communication practice talking to animals and plants on a particular SDG and target. They then cut and paste the summary under the appropriate heading on the public writing report. Those who are not an official part of the class are also welcome to join.
- At an agreed time, all input ends and whoever wants to join in editing, begins editing the content. Nothing may be deleted, but strike through and alternative formulations are encouraged. We believe that we do not have the overview of Nature and so it is not up to us to delete what is said. It is amazing how great our reports end up being. Then we set a period where people can initial the paragraphs that are ready to go. Where there is no agreement we hold a meeting and then decide by consensus on how something can best be formulated.
- Finally the text goes to a final editor. This has generally been IPS Representative, Prof. Dr. Marilyn Fowler. One Report (SDG4) was excellently edited by IPS representative; Jill Lauri and SDG 12 was edited by Rob Wheeler.
- We then send the reports to our mailing lists for endorsements.
- Finally, we write an email with the Report to Heads of State and Government, UN Ambassadors in NYC, and delegates with whom we have a special relationship. We invite them to send copies to those departments and people in their government whom they think might benefit from them. The Reports tend to be directed at policy and contain a large number of practical actions and best practices.

### **Underlying Strategy**

The idea is to send the Report out to people who will pass it along. In every nation the UN Ambassador will receive a copy directly from us and will (hopefully) also receive a copies from their Head of State and/or Government. (We have for each country on our mailing list both the Head of State and the Head of Government, but unfortunately we do not have these for all African countries and one or two smaller nations). If all goes according to plan the Ambassador will receive the same communications personally and from the two most powerful people above him/her. That will give our report more clout.

### **Outcome**

We have now written Reports on SDG 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 14. These are submitted with this report and can be placed on the IPS web site. We also use the reports at relevant conferences we attend and to provide wording to draft international agreements where our input is invited.

### **HABITAT III**

Leaders: Lisinka Ulatowska, IPS UN Rep

David Triggs, President of the Union for Land Value Taxation

Duncan Pickard;

Taede Veenstra, also for the IPS

David, Tade and I attended the European Regional Conference in Prague and the Conference in Quito, Ecuador.

### **Prague**

We had carefully gone through the whole draft document that was to be finalized and brought in relevant wording that reflected our basic organizational ideas and best practices from all of our work. The whole conference was totally geared to getting our input and we were excellently prepared, since I had spent weeks going through the whole document and added wording to the draft document that was to be finalized at the conference in Prague. The input reflected the work of

the Nature Team on SDG 14, Oceans and Seas, our IPS organizational approach (see above: vision and means) as well as our large store of relevant best practices and ideas.

Taede and I had prepared ourselves to talk to some 7 Governments on the preparatory written statements they had made. Taede spoke to the Minister of Belgium and to the delegation of the Netherlands. I took the rest.

Since we would be working together with the Commons Cluster member, the *Union for Land Value Taxation*, and it is important to prioritize our work, we decided to focus on Commons Rent. This organization had already managed to get some wording on this topic in the Founding Document.

David Triggs, their president had organized a side event and had asked me to speak on Commons Rent. We had an unexpectedly large turn-out and at the end, the public did not want to leave and avidly continued with discussion and Q&A.

We also had a hand-out that we passed out on *Commons Rent* that we now use also at other conferences.(Copy attached.)

Both David and I made statements at that conference and quite coincidentally we followed each other thereby reinforcing what each of us said.

In the end, the agreed statement was read out. There was to my way of thinking just one thing that was missing and when the Minister of the Czech Republic asked if there was any other comment, I suggested that the role of Nature was not portrayed as being in the driving seat. People clapped and the work *Nature-inspired* was added to the text.

I have discussed this in some detail both because we had time to really organize this well and also because we were able to assess our success immediately—usually negotiations lead to a long drawn out period before the outcome is well known.

### **Quito**

This was a wonderful conference but there was little left to do and the security was so firm that it was impossible initially to get into anything but side events. I had registered to speak but when I saw the tight security and there was little way of finding out what was happening I assumed that I had not been chosen and did not even look at my email. I am deeply ashamed to say that only after the conference did I see that Alice and the UN had done everything to locate me and I just had not realized that. My apologies for not taking more care and missing an opportunity to speak at an important conference.

### **What we learned**

HABITAT has been the conference for which we had been well prepared. A true team effort, because we were able to build on the Report on Nature and Human Settlements prepared by the Partnership and it was as if at the meeting itself Providence was guiding our efforts.

### **The Conference on Oceans and Seas.**

The Partnership on Nature produced an impressive Report. Myra wrote the largest part of the Introduction. We have not had any information yet on in how far this Report was used to give input to the process.

### **The Meeting of the Committee on Poverty Eradication.**

#### **Coordinator IPS Representative Jill Louri, Msc, MA.**

The Working Group on Rights of Nature wrote a *Report on the Rights of Nature: Integrating Nature in the Implementation of SDG1*. This was a particularly difficult job since the report was extremely long. Professor Dr. Marilyn Fowler did an amazing job pulling it all together. Jill Louri was to spearhead this at the conference. She had agreed to attend for 2 days. Unfortunately there was a snow storm that day and she was prevented from attending. We shall still be using this report at the upcoming High Level Political Forum in July of this year.

### **Sustainably Wise**

**Coordinators: Rob Wheeler, Rep Global EcoVillageNetwork;  
Lisinka Ulatowska, IPS UN Rep,  
Marilyn Fowler UN Rep. IPS,**



**Aris Dorresteyn, President of MostWantIT.org, an IT team that has won the Dutch Prize for Innovation. Aris employs a large team of interns and professionals and the work they are doing is very professional**

Sustainably Wise is a tool to

- help people worldwide to plan and implement their life's goals or methodically plan and implement other projects they have at school or at work,
- do so while constantly relating it to the goals that will determine their feasibility;
- put each one using the website tool in touch with the resources they need and the people who can help them; and
- to enable a global network of people relating on a basis of caring, sharing, community and team work to form working together, each in their own way, on creating a sustainable world.

***It is also a tool to help UN Member States to introduce the SDGs via the schools*** to their peoples and rally their support. It will be introduced first of all via the Educational Ministries and the UNESCO committees in each Nation and hopefully through them to the schools. Here Taede Veenstra is helping with creating a detailed data base that we can use for mailing. Our plan is to begin by introducing it to young people and educators and as these spread the word about the SDGs to introduce it to business and other NGOs.

***Sustainably Wise is moreover a tool for UN Specialized Agencies and other International Governmental Organizations (IGOs)*** to enable people worldwide to become familiar with the knowledge, know-how and other resources they are offering for SDG implementation. If this is made available to people just as they are working on a project that is of interest to them, then the materials we supply from the IGOs will be most easily absorbed.

This tool can be a powerful way of enabling people to get in touch with and develop their highest potential; to support governments, the UN and IGOs to use the SDGs and the information and other resources associated with them ;to form global partnerships dedicated to a sustainable world. The lines along which MostWantIT rallies people is: along common interests in the area of sustainability—person to person; organization to organization; Governments and people in a common efforts to make their nations sustainable; and people, organizations, governments at all levels and the UN all dedicated to a sustainable world where each person can come into his or her own in harmony with Nature.

#### NEXT STEPS

The way we are working is paying dividends in ways I had never believed possible. Our challenge remains to work consistently as a team.

With Sustainably Wise our work will expand to also reach out more to other quite different NGOs, diverse IGOs and get a much deepened idea of all that is going on and the tools we can use to bring about planetary synthesis.

Sustainably Wise is a tool that is aimed at bringing ***inner*** synthesis as people plan their goals to develop their individual potential; to allow natural cooperative relationships to develop as people reach across borders of all kinds to connect with people that share their interests; and for all people to work supportively with their governments and participate in global consultations with people worldwide via the UN. It is a tool ***par excellence*** to bring about synthesis as people gather together to bring about sustainable development.

I shall be with Taede in Geneva to promote Sustainably Wise, gather information and take it to the next level.

I shall be in NYC for the same reason. I shall spend the first three weeks (from 15 June) focussing on Sustainably Wise and our Nature work. I find that the more consistently I can be in NYC when UN conferences are happening, the more our influence escalates. It is consistency that brings with it trust that can make a difference in the relationships we build.

#### SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF OTHER IPS NYC TEAM MEMBERS

**Myra Jackson**

## Highlights 2015

Conclusion of three year service on the open working group on the SDGs with co-chairs Ambassadors Kamau, Mc Donough and Korosi.

Organized, funded and delivered a well-attended and well received side event on Communicating the SDGs on July 2nd during the HLPF on SDGs.

Participated in the opening of the 69th UNGA celebrating the adoption of the SDGs with Pope Francis in attendance.

Completed the Planetary Boundaries course with the Stockholm Resilience center and earned the title of Diplomat of the Biosphere due to course performance and video submission.

Arranged for celebrity media mogul, Oprah Winfrey to appear as the guest of the 70th PGA, Mogen Lykketoft to present a screening of the BELIEF series designed with the goal of fostering a culture of peace and appreciation of others.

Delegate to the UNFCCC to COP21 - Paris Negotiations and served on committee Pathways to Paris.

Active on the World We Want platform committee and regular participant in weekly PGA meetings.

## Highlights from 2016

Continued activity as a focal point on climate change with the MGoS

Move to put into action ideas fostered during the HLPF on SDGs to effectively communicate the SDGs in support of implementation by sharing the framework with local authorities: met with DC mayor and staff, City of Baltimore, the EPA and City of Monterey and Biophilic Cities at the University of Virginia.

Began work in conjunction with Ms. Flores in Ecuador of Terra Mater (aka Foundation de Pachamama) on Earth Jurisprudence under the auspices of Harmony with Nature

Introduced celebrity actors Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith to tour the UN as the guest of the PGA of 71st UNGA, Mr. Peter Thomson. Organized a Chatman House rules meeting with 22 Ambassadors, including Ambassador Kamau on September 21st that included a host lunch.

Participated as an invited guest of SG Ban Ki Moon in the induction of a young woman who escaped from ISIS as a Global Ambassador with barrister, Amal Clooney.

Delegate to COP22 in Marrakech. Focus on Voluntary Country Commitments to the Paris Agreement; implementation.

## Highlights for 2017

Attended HLPF on Oceans and shared relevant information with US Congressman, Jimmy Panetta during a visit to his congressional office to encourage support for UNCLOS and SDG14. The Congressman is engaged and agreed to participate in the UN Ocean's Conference

I am serving on two committees: 1) The IPWG established to provide expert advice to the Advisory Group of The Ocean Conference (coordinated by Sweden), and 2) The Expert Meeting Coordinating Mechanism to inform and shape the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR). Currently, we are working to align the STI and FfD with the SDGs. This work is being overseen by the ECOSOC President. It has been quite a learning.

Active participant in the MGoS meetings and working actively on civil society engagement in the ECOSOC processes. Member States are pushing back...

Established working relationship with the Deputy Director of the UNGC; exciting outcomes in the works to bring in celebrity as global ambassador to further embed the SDGs into its framework. Succeeded in bringing in 5 businesses into the UNGC who are committed to the SDGs. Each

business will submit a Voluntary Commitment on SDG14 to be published in the outcome document.

City of Baltimore adopted the SDG framework with a focus on SDG16 - Peaceful Societies - a win.

Working with the city of Crestone in the County of Sagauche and the State of Colorado to adopt a Rights of Nature ordinance to protect the water aquifer that provides freshwater to the region.

Met the President of ECOSOC as a member of civil society to discuss the VNRs.

Organized a side event entitled Love and Care in Action: Cleaning up Our Oceans for the UN Oceans Conference and waiting for approval. Supported by WJSFF and UNGC.

Organizing a coastal cities initiative to garner Voluntary Commitments on stewardship of the oceans. Working with local authorities and congressional representatives.

Participated in the 7th Dialogue on the Harmony with Nature on Earth Jurisprudence and am moving forward in support of protecting the commons through public policy that recognizes the rights of natures in communities. Exciting.

### **Marilyn Fowler**

## **Ti-annual Report: The Partnership on the Rights of Nature and Nature-Inspired Implementation of the SDGs**

Activities at John F. Kennedy University and  
The California Institute of Integral Studies towards the 2030 Agenda

### ***Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all***

#### **I. John F. Kennedy University, San Francisco Bay Area**

The educational programs at John F. Kennedy are in explicit alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 4.

The goal of the University as a whole is to provide inclusive and equitable quality education for a diverse population. Promoting life-long learning is written into the university's founding charter. University enrollment for people of color and people with disabilities has increased by 15% percent in the 2017 school year, due to active outreach efforts and expanded online programs that make education accessible to distance learners.

In terms of enrollment by gender, over 60% of students at JFKU are female, in keeping with national enrollment numbers by gender. The practical focus of the university's efforts to offer job placement services for graduating students includes externship placements, job internships, career centers, and professional career fairs.

Curriculum content in a number of Masters programs includes specific training in environmental and social justice issues. The College of Law, for example, offers walk-in legal clinics for the public managed by faculty and students on Elder Law, Americans with Disabilities Law and Environmental Law. The School of Business offers inclusive community clinics for new entrepreneurial start-ups, focusing on new business start ups initiated by people of color.

**Target 4.7: Ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to**

## **sustainable development.**

The MA in Consciousness and Transformative Studies has incorporated this target into the heart of the program's curriculum. Among the courses now offered are:

- *Awakening the Global Citizen*: A course on global sustainability in the wake of Climate Change that focuses on active leadership efforts individuals can take to help mitigate climate effects and galvanize innovative solutions for the future.
- *Consciousness and sustainability*: A project based course that requires students to implement positive, practical steps toward resolving a current local environmental or social justice issue.
- *Transformational leadership*: A global leadership course that provides theoretical and practical context for understanding the complex intertwined political, social and environmental issues facing humanity today and how to address them.
- *Women's Power and Promise*: a course targeted toward helping women step up and step out to claim their authority and power in the world, understanding their unique potential to make a difference politically, socially, professionally and culturally.
- *World Spirituality*: a course designed to increase understanding and acceptance of different religious paths and practices, as a way to mitigate ignorance and violence against others based on their spiritual beliefs.

## **II. California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco**

Since its inception in 1965, CIIS has focused on multi-cultural and inclusive education and equality for students from diverse backgrounds, including people of color, women, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQ community.

Since becoming a member of the Partnership on the Rights of Nature and Nature-Inspired Implementation of the SDGs, CIIS has added a new environmentally focused certificate program to their educational offerings. *The Certificate in Ecoresilience Leadership* is a year-long program which seeks to train students to become 'mentors of cultural change' to assist those concerned about climate change and other planetary crises to move from paralysis into action.

The program enables students to:

Facilitate discussion and action circles for people concerned about climate change.

Educate their communities of origin about the benefits of sustainable practices.

Pool and utilize knowledge and resources geared toward fusing deep reflection with effective action.

Conduct research on best practices for facilitating cultural transformation.

This program was launched in 2016, with new students added throughout this academic year. The courses offered in this new certificate include:

### Fall

Ecology, Sustainability, and Regenerative Practices

Ecoresilience Leadership Principles and Practices

Ecotherapy

Creative Work with Earth: Story, Symbol, Art, Dream  
Working with the Earth Charter Initiative  
Eradigms and Worldviews  
Group Work I: Beyond Ecogrief and Ecoanxiety

Spring

Urban Ecopsychology  
Ecotherapeutic Movement  
Environmental Justice: Principles and Practices  
Parallel Resources and Post-Carbon Practices  
Conducting Research for Cultural Transformation  
Working with Communities  
Group Work II: Culture-Building and Network-Weaving

**Jill Lauri**

**Commons Cluster of the UN NGO Major Group Report  
Jill Lauri, MBA, MSW Activities**

**Attended UN Sessions on 7/11/16, 7/14/16, 7/18/16, 7/25/16 and 7/28/16**

**Interacted with Representatives from Malaysia, Norway, Vietnam and Bolivia**

**Sent Follow UP Letters with Copies of Nature Reports to Norwegian and Vietnamese Representatives:**

Alf Håvard Vestheim, Counsellor  
Permanent Mission of Norway  
825 Third Avenue, 39th Floor New York, N.Y. 10022-7584

Do Hung Viet  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations  
866 U.N. Plaza, Suite 435  
New York, NY 10017

**Assisted Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska in Writing Follow UP Letter with Copies of Nature Reports to Malaysian Representative:**

Mr. Datuk K. Yogeesvaran

**Facilitated Interaction between Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska and Prime Minister of Norway**

**Met with Bolivian Representative and Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska**

**Contributed to Nature Reports by Providing Content and Editing**