

## UN DPI/NGO Conference / Unity in Diversity Workshop



3 September 2014

More than 2000 civil society representatives gathered at the United Nations in New York last week to help shape a new vision for global development and prosperity.

The deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) is 2015. While considerable progress has been achieved during the last 15 years since the Millennium Declaration, the international community considers '2015' a once-in-a-generation opportunity for transformational change and forging ahead together to formulate the new development agenda - The Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). For more information about the SDG's, [click here](#).

In a statement by Susana Malcorra, the Chef de Cabinet Executive Office of the Secretary-General, she declared:

*“That new agenda will point the way forward on some of the biggest issues of our time, from eradicating poverty, eliminating hunger and combating disease to empowering women and girls, boosting health care, improving education, strengthening institutions, promoting rights, transforming economies, protecting the environment and tackling unsustainable production and consumption practices.*

*“Across this spectrum of opportunity and challenge, civil society needs to be heard more than ever before,” she stressed. “No discussion or negotiation of a post-2015 development agenda will succeed without your voices and input.”*

During the conference, *Roundtable Discussions* and *Workshops* generated a cohesive response by participants.

Among the Workshops was *Unity in Diversity - World Civil Society*, which aims to bring civil society together on one major facilitative platform and coordinate cooperation at local, regional and global levels. The Workshop was presented by Global Dialogue Foundation, Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, CO-HABITER, Global Sustainable Development Foundation, and supported by Enviro Global Solutions.

A message from Global Dialogue Foundation's Founder helped set the pace for the workshop.

[Click here](#) to download a copy. The following are among the key needs identified:

- To help those who help people in communities
- To put the spotlight on innovative projects and help gain global recognition
- To find sustainable opportunities
- To speak and write positive words in order to raise energy levels
- To embrace this as an Era of Conscience
- To connect socially conscious artists and the development world (rather than viewing artists as token performers)
- To establish collective partnership in order to counter political and corporate pressures
- To address the issue of 30-70% of partnerships failing (research provided by Western Washington University)
- To overcome barriers caused by the sheer number of NGO's (Non-Governmental Organizations), in existence



Participants met with new friends and found a new sense of encouragement in the Unity in Diversity platform for addressing the needs of their communities. The Workshop also provided an opportunity to create more alignment for establishing broad engagement across civil society, necessary for enabling the success of the Post-2015 Agenda.



GDF extends appreciation to all participants, event partners, Unity in Diversity - World Civil Society Initiative Bodies, members and all supporters. GDF invites all who are not already a member of Unity in Diversity to join, and find new partners and opportunities! [Apply online](#).

Back to the UN DPI / NGO Conference, a declaration was adopted during the closing session, which will become part of the synthesis report to the UN Secretary-General. [Click here](#) to download a copy of the declaration.

To visit the event photo library, [click here](#).