



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (DPI) AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

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September marks the second anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All 193 states of the UN approved these 17 Global Goals 2030 and the 169 Targets associated with them. Since 2015, the UN has initiated programs and activities to promote the effort to create "the World we Want." Many UN Department of Public Information (UNDPI) briefings your DKG representatives attend focus on these goals. To learn more about what you can do to help promote this UN initiative, download the APP: "UN VISITOR CENTRE - NY" in the App Store, Google Play, or Amazon and/or go to the UN website at www.un.org and scroll down for a great two minute video on the goals and more.

SDGs #3 & #4: Good Health and Wellbeing, Quality Education

by Lochie Musso

Families are the basis of communities everywhere in the world. Family is the first classroom in a person's educational career and can provide lifelong learning support. Families can be educators of peace. In observance of the International Day of Families, this UN briefing focused on *Families, Education and Well-Being*. (SDGs #3 & #4)

Introduced by Alberto Padova, Chief of the Social Integration Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and moderated by Esuna Dugarova (@Esuna_Dugarova), Policy Specialist at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the panel presented researched data on the significance of family to the welfare of a nation.



Eduardo Garcia Rolland, UNICEF Early Childhood Development Specialist, emphasized the importance of very early childhood development, a group often overlooked in international research. While praising the reduction of child mortality from 20 million to 5 million annually, he asks, "Children are surviving but are they thriving?" Toxic stress from environmental influences (malnutrition, conflict, poverty, etc.) during early childhood has a lifelong impact. The "early developing brain needs good nutrition, enrichment and protection," he said.

Patricia Debeljuh (@patodebeljuh), Director of the Research Center for Work and Family Balance, IAE Business-Austral University, Buenos Aires, Argentina, spoke about the shared responsibility of the Family, Individuals, the State and the Corporate worlds in Human Ecology Care.

Diego Barroso, Management Committee of the International Federation of Family Development, cautioned that there “is no ready-made formula” for supporting families. However, children from countries that provide greater support in the early years (such as longer work leave for both parents) do better overall.

Michael Robb (@mikrobb1) Director of Research at Common Sense Media, warned that too much “background media noise” can have a negative effect on young children. While appropriate programming can boost learning, too much multi-tasking can lead to more errors and memory loss.

UNDPI Briefings 2017 Season Wrap-Up

By Joan Goldstein

The DPI/NGO Briefing Season Wrap-Up, 22 June 2017, presented by Jeff Brez focused on data collected from last year and the upcoming Intergenerational Dialogues on the Sustainable Development Goals Youth Event, 1 August.

Mr. Brez told about the Annual Review Process that NGOs associated with DPI are expected to submit summarizing their activities for the previous year. Noting that the process and platform has changed, the objective is to gather information expressing the additive value of NGOs within the UN and to the world, and to make it easier for NGOs to submit the Annual Review. Mr. Brez then presented the following data:

- At the end of December 2016, there were 1,450 NGOs (based in 64 countries) associated with DPI.
- 42% of those submitted Annual Reviews and 84% of those were accepted. (DKG included.)
- NGOs by region were primarily from the Western European Group. More outreach needs to be done with the Latin American and Caribbean Group, Eastern European Group, Asian Pacific Group and African Group.
- There are 2390 NGO representatives; about 23% are Youth representatives (18-32 years) and 74% are regular representatives.
- 1,791 activities were reported which included events, workshops, conferences, seminars, campaigns, publications and projects. Activities took place in 124 countries. The potential reach is 700 million.
- A graph of the SDGs was displayed. Receiving most attention were SDGs #3, 4, 5 and 16. (Will #14, Life Under Water, go up as a result of the Ocean Conference next year?)
- 592 NGOs have active websites. The most popular social media platforms are Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, LinkedIn, Instagram, in that order. Electronic newsletter and postal

mailing are still used more often, however. NGO outreach through all platforms is over 150 million contacts.

- UN Initiatives garnering the greatest support are: Commission on the Status of Women and International Women’s Day, the SDGs, International Day of Peace, UN General Assembly (UNGA) , UN Day, and the annual DPI/NGO Conference were among the top ten.

Ms. Kim Quarles, Vice Chair of the DPI/NGO spoke about the important role NGOs play to achieve UN goals. At last year’s annual DPI conference held in South Korea, a youth mentoring program was initiated to help youth colleagues become more involved in the United Nations more effectively.

Jaydayah Spencer, Executive Director of the International Youth Leadership Institute and presently Co-Chair of the NGO/DPI Youth Steering Committee told how they have been involving young people. DPI has received requests from young people across the world who would like to be part of the youth engagement program. Several events were organized this season including: a Youth Orientation, side events during the Commission on the Status of Women, and the ECOSOC Youth Forum. Different teams have been organized to support and engage youth at the UN. There are over 533 youth representing more than 100 countries, up 100% from last year.

Mary Norton spoke about the upcoming DPI event in August and how the 17 SDGs will be structured for discussion under 6 major Dialogues: Breaking the Intergenerational Cycle of Poverty, Gender Equality-Opening the Door to Gender Equality, Access to Employment throughout Life, Dialogue and Sharing Responsibility for the Planet, Intergenerational Innovation and Healthy Living (Physical and Mental Wellness)

Maxton Scotland, Rotaract, African Union Representative and Co-Chair of the Intergenerational Dialogues on the SDGs stated that the concentration of the day’s happenings will be on engendering relationship between generations by highlighting the importance of people talking to each other, creating a synergy that will be a joint action on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The focus will be on bringing everyone together regardless of age, sex and color on the 2030 SDG Agenda.

UNDPI Annual Event 1 August 2017

By Lochie Musso

Beyond the briefings, the UNDPI holds a “grande” annual event for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) about current UN policies. This year’s conference held at the UN in New York City titled, “*Intergenerational Dialogues on the SDGs*” was composed of interactive discussions in small groups. Six “dialogues” (see article above) were conducted in breakout sessions covering many



Left to right: Connie Rensink, Cathy Daugherty, Anne-Marie Carlson, Ann Grosjean, Lochie Musso

SDGs and purposefully involving participants of all ages. Six Delta Kappa Gamma members attended. We will be sharing our experiences here and in the next edition of this newsletter.

“Intergenerational Dialogues on the SDGs” began with comments from the Acting Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Maher Nasser, stating that the North Hemisphere holds a “bulge of seniors” while youth dominate the Southern half of the world. He emphasized the need to “work together for the sake of future generations.”

Bruce Knotts, NGO/DPI Executive Committee Chair, (a position formerly held by DKG Anne-Marie Carlson) hoped this conference would “shine a light” on marginalized citizens, namely seniors and youth. He proposed that we all have a responsibility to take action on the SDGs.

UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, greeted all via video. H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly opened his comments with a remark from his granddaughter on the day before her eighth birthday. She said, “I get sad on the last day of my old age,” giving us new perspective on senior citizenship! He noted that there are presently 1.8 billion young people and 962 million older persons over 60 but, by 2050, this gap in numbers will evaporate as our world population ages and birth rates decline.

Statements from Jayathma Wickraanayake, Sec – Gen’s Envoy on Youth, Yao Shaojun, Counselor, Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China, PassBlue UN correspondent Barbara Crossette, and Civil Society Representatives shared the message that everyone of all ages must “act now and together” to implement the UN 2030 Global Goals Agenda.

Notes from Dialogue #1: *Breaking the Intergenerational Cycle of Poverty*, by Ann Grosjean

This *session* was addressed by a panel of three experts involved in the implementation of SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) # 1 – No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

H. E. Hahn Choong-Hee, the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, emphasized the importance of an intergenerational approach to poverty.

There are three phases in dealing with poverty: *Participation* - public and private organizations working cooperatively to invest in job opportunities for all. *Protection* - marginalized groups



including women and children must be protected from violence. *Empowerment* - men, women, boys and girls should be empowered to reach their potential through education and vocational training. Intergenerational communication within government, the private sector, academia and the media can prevent conflicts and cultivate a value oriented society leading to a peaceful world. Social media can facilitate this intergenerational dialog partnership.

Patricia Talisse, a Counselling graduate of Aleppo University addressed the complex poverty within war torn countries. Although some NGOs provide education, children who have experienced trauma need civil skills not just the three R’s. Further, there are questions about

access, quality and attendance. Without modern resources, their hope is diminished and they are “bodies with dead souls”. In fleeing, many are willing to risk their lives for a future of hope. The intergenerational dialogue is an empowerment circle with youth curious, willing and craving the expertise of their elders, who provide youth with support to succeed in sustainable jobs.

Cornell Brooks, a former NAACP president, stressed the need for civil rights for all. There are three major issues: *Intersectionality* - overlapping discrimination based on gender, poverty, color, sexual orientation, generational discrimination, and the right to vote. *Technology* or the unavailability of technology - jobs may be replaced by automation. Finally, *Barriers* - racial discrimination, poor schools, and social issues. NAACP has a NextGen Program to address poverty and other issues. Millennials are great activists as they have new ways of thinking and using technology.

Notes from Dialogue #3: Access to Employment throughout Life, by Lochie Musso

Four panelists emphasized the importance of work for both youth and elders providing not only sustenance but self-identity and worthiness. In many places people will “work until they die” just to survive. In countries where the population is aging like Japan, a worker shortage is a concern.



Unemployment among youth is an issue in many under-developing nations. Lack of skills and education was noted. Gender inequality is a global problem in the work force. While women are increasingly entering into employment, they are often undervalued and have no access to credit for entrepreneurship. A need for international standards for employment, clear communication in the workplace, providing job opportunities and affording social protection for workers across the life cycle were emphasized as goals for the future.

Notes from Dialogue #5: Intergenerational Innovation, by Cathy Daugherty

Technological innovations impact lives across the world and each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Dialogues between all generations spark collaboration on how best to use these technological advances to address the SDGs. Specifically, Dialogue 5 raised issues regarding the current digital divide between generations and how each group can ensure comparable opportunities in today's world.

Panel members for Dialogue 5 shared organizational and personal ideas. Brett Prescott, representing Facebook noted the connective capability of communication and its necessity in reaching out to all generations. Donna Butts stressed the quality of intergenerational programming. She asked participants how best to innovate with traditionally age-specific issues/ideas. The head of a youth foundation, Sabhajit Saha, challenged all to include respect, safety, and education as cornerstones for implementing technological advances across

generations. Using experienced, older mentors as support mechanisms for those entering the work force dominated remarks from George Tsisatis. Access to every economic level and nationality framed the personal story told by Itai Madamombe, a young woman from Zimbabwe.

The follow-up dialogue between panelists and participants led to the realization that innovation is more about creating solutions and less about technology. Creative collaboration between generations will impact problem solving. Youth will dream, create and learn. Experience will mentor, challenge and learn. Together we innovate.

[Note: Pictures under Dialogue 1 and 5 are from Clip Art, public domain.]

YOUR UN REPRESENTATIVES

The members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International listed below are your official representatives at the United Nations Department of Public Information and the Economic and Social Council. Most of them also work with CTAUN. You can email us for further information.

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