



Report of Activities –May 1, 2009

CoNGO Committee on Sustainable Development, New York

Reconstitution Process:

Since the CoNGO Committee on Sustainable Development, New York, (Committee) had experienced organizational and leadership issues over several years, on March 17, 2009, Mr. Liberato Bautista, President of CoNGO, conducted a special meeting according to CoNGO rules for the purpose of reconstituting the Committee. More than 30 ECOSOC accredited CoNGO member NGOs were present and voted to reconstitute the Committee. A team of three persons was approved to nominate a slate of officers to serve as an executive committee following the By-Laws of the Committee. The slate of officers proposed by the nominating committee was announced by the President of CoNGO and the Interim Chair of the Committee by an email letter to all members on July 10, 2009. In the same correspondence the date, July 23, 2009, of the first meeting of the reconstituted Committee was announced. Also, due to the urgency of having a fully functioning Committee, it was proposed that the nominated slate take over transitional functions until the annual meeting in October at which time the slate would be put to election.

The President of CoNGO conducted the election of the executive committee by written ballot during the annual meeting on October 1, 2009. The Officers are:

Ann Braudis	Co-chair
Iryna Kurowyckyj	Co-chair
Lily Schwabe	Secretary
Aaron Etra	Treasurer
Jan Dash	Member at Large
Nana-Fosa Randall	Member at Large
Larry Roeder	Member at Large
Patricia Scharlin	Member at Large
Brad Jenkins	Member at Large

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Goals of the Committee:

- Work on Climate Change as a cross-cutting issue
- Facilitate members' participation in CSD 18 and 19
- Prepare for Rio + 20

Committee Accomplishments to date:

- Presented an overview of the CSD 18 process and NGO participation. This was conducted by Tonya Vaturi, Sustainable Development Officer of DESA.
- Responded to the CSD 18 Call for Major Groups Inputs for the report to the Secretary General with reports on mining from NGOs in Peru and India.
- Prepared a Climate Change Discussion Paper for distribution in the NGO Community in preparation for the UNFCCC Copenhagen negotiations of December 2009. This was presented at the CoNGO meeting in Vienna in November and endorsed for distribution to the UN Missions as a Summary and Recommendations for Governments, by the Sustainable Development Committee. It was later taken to Copenhagen where it was widely distributed. More than 100 NGOs and organizations supported the paper.
- Supported the UNEP/DPI *Seal the Deal* sign on campaign and formed an ad hoc committee to investigate an appropriate way to respond to the campaign's call to plant a billion trees.
- Conducted preliminary preparation for Rio + 20, by Mr. Felix Dodds of the Stakeholders Forum
- Invited Deputy Ambassador Loayza of Bolivia to inform the Committee of the plans, preparations and significance of the Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, to be held April 19th – 22nd in Cochabamba, Bolivia
- Formed various Working Groups in preparation of CSD 18
 - Web site
 - Mining
 - Monetary Transformation
 - Consumption and the Earth
 - Transportation and the Elderly
 - Mask-making and the Earth
 - Climate Change and States not Included in the Copenhagen Accord

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- Facilitated the participation of Committee members in CSD 18
- Supported five Side Events and one Special Event arranged by Committee members and several papers for distribution before and during CSD 18. Some papers are still being redacted.
- Reformulated the Climate Change paper for COP 16.

Committee Working Group on Climate Change (ongoing): The Committee approved the continuance of a Sustainable Development Working Group on Climate Change (WG), initiated in February of 2009 with the approval of the President of CoNGO. The WG has met regularly and held informative sessions for the members with a series of speakers; among these were Mr. Tariq Banuri, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of DESA, Mr. James Sniffen of UNEP and Ms. Tracy Raczek of UNIFEM: In addition, the WG held two side events on climate change, one during CSD 17 in May of 2009, and one prior to the Climate Change Summit in September of 2009.

Civil Society Development Forum: Formed part of the Steering Committee and developed a major Event in collaboration with CoNGO for the 2010 May 4 -5, New York session .

Submitted by:
Ann Braudis and Iryna Kurowyckyj, Co-chairs
May 1, 2010