

11th Annual Meeting of United Nations and International Organizations

Civil Society Focal Point

Summary Report



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Inter-American Development Bank



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Introduction

The 11th Annual United Nations and International Organizations Civil Society Focal Points Meeting, jointly organized by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) and the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), was held on 17-18 November in Washington DC at World Bank Headquarters. The meeting, which brought together 66 participants from 37 organizations, sought to explore various aspects of the work streams that will converge in the post-2015 development agenda, including a focus on promoting a common sustainable development agenda to end poverty and reduce inequality, and financing of the new development agenda. During the two-day meeting, representatives of multilateral institutions, bilateral agencies, and civil society organizations (CSOs) held open discussions and shared information and best practices in relation to a number of key threads related to the post-2015 framework, including lessons learned in terms of public consultations with civil society; challenges around partnership approaches involving civil society and the private sector; the role of human rights in implementing the new agenda; and effective approaches to operational collaboration with civil society, as well as exploring the role of the Financial Institutions in supporting the Social and Solidarity Economy.

Day One

Opening Session

Ms. Beth Peoc'h, Officer in Charge of UN-NGLS, welcomed participants and presented an overview of the meeting, indicating that the overarching objective was to consider collective challenges toward ensuring meaningful civil society engagement to achieve development goals. She noted that as the years go by these challenges have deepened, have become intertwined with others and often overlap. A brief tour de table followed in order for participants to introduce themselves and their organizations.

In her opening remarks, **Ms. Edith Jibunoh**, Advisor and Head, Civil Society Team, External and Corporate Relations, World Bank, drew attention to the “good practice” the annual meeting represents as it has developed collegial and productive relations amongst the civil society focal points of the UN and multilateral institutions, and has further helped these organizations to deepen their engagement with civil society toward shared objectives. She highlighted the work of the Bank’s [“Global Partnership for Social Accountability”](#) (GPSA) that supports civil society and governments to work together to solve governance challenges in developing countries, with the goal of ending extreme poverty and fostering shared prosperity by 2030. This will be accomplished through the provision of knowledge, expertise and financial support to civil society as they help strengthen citizens’ voices in development, which in turn enhances the social contract between citizens and the State and supports more effective development delivery. Concluding, she highlighted the critical

contributions of civil society in efforts to end extreme poverty, including their energy and diverse approaches to service delivery.



Mr. Thomas Gass, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN-DESA, noted that the world is entering a “watershed moment” for international cooperation for development. After the Rio+20 Conference, the international community had embarked on an exercise to develop the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without being sure of the

outcomes, which could have been a kind of “MDG+” (Millennium Development Goal) exercise. But in the end, Mr. Gass stressed, the Open Working Group on the SDGs had involved active debates over the months and had resulted in “something different, more akin to a shared vision.” The process would continue, with the launch of the Secretary-General’s Synthesis Report in December and the intergovernmental negotiations in 2015 on the narrative, the framework, Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and means of implementation, etc., of the new agenda. Mr. Gass informed participants that they – as contact points for civil society – have an important role to play in this challenging process. The premise that the post-2015 development agenda is universal and is different from the MDGs has many implications for all stakeholders. First, it means going beyond the averages and numbers of the MDGs and reaching out to people living in remote areas, displaced people and people without registration, which would require interacting and working together in a different manner in order to reach the most vulnerable. Mr. Gass suggested that if each Head of State signed up for this common vision, then accountability would be strengthened at the national level, which would in turn empower civil society. A change in paradigm for financing these new goals was needed to ensure that concrete action happens on the ground. Finally, private sector engagement must be approached in a new way so that it is accountable, he concluded.

Plenary Session “Post-2015: Promoting a Common Sustainable Development Agenda to End Poverty and Reduce Inequality”

Moderator: Thomas Gass, ASG/UN-DESA

- *H.E. Ms. Nathalie Cely Suárez*, Ambassador of Ecuador to the United States
 - *Mario Negre Rossignoli*, Senior Economist, World Bank
 - *Aldo Caliarì*, Director, Rethinking Bretton Woods Project, Center of Concern
 - *Nelson Muffuh*, Head of Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement, Executive Office of the Secretary General
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Bringing diverse stakeholder perspectives together, this plenary session, moderated by **ASG Thomas Gass**, focused on the growing significance of inequality and unsustainable consumption and production patterns and the different approaches taken by Member States, international organizations and civil society organizations to frame and address these interlinked challenges. In her

remarks, **H.E. Ms. Nathalie Cely** (Ambassador of Ecuador to the US and former Minister Coordinator of Social Development in Ecuador) noted that reducing inequality and eliminating poverty is not only a moral imperative, but is also a path toward growth. She reflected on the Latin American region, which in the last decade has been an important actor in the growth of the world economy, experiencing significant economic growth, poverty reduction, as well as a decline in extreme poverty largely due to greater growth, more and better jobs, but also because of social policies. Ecuador is making progress through high levels of public investment (16% GDP), particularly at the local level, and a model called *buen vivir* or the “good living” model, which places the well-being of its citizen at the core of all of its policies. From 2007-2009, investment in the social sector was focused on increasing access to education, child care, health, and housing for all citizens. Since 2009, the focus has been to enhance the access and quality of services as a means to eradicate poverty, the Ambassador stressed. Tax reforms put in place in 2007 have enhanced the efficiency of tax collection by ensuring everyone contributes to the growth of the economy in a fair share, resulting in an increase of 5 points in GDP growth in less than five years. Pointing out that Ecuador’s constitution provides nature with rights, Ambassador Cely noted that her country had changed the model of how oil and mining revenues are divided in order to ensure that the poorest households in the regions with extractive industries have access to education and health. She further highlighted the difficulty in striking a balance between attracting investments in the country – within a legal framework – and making sure those benefits stay in the country. Ecuador is investing in infrastructure, including ports, airports and roads, to enhance productivity, and is transforming its energy matrix. The country has invested in hydroelectric energy with the hope of having 92% of the energy matrix coming from renewable energies by 2016. In order to enhance its production and competitiveness, she suggested that industrial policies need to allow countries to have space for domestic policies, sometimes not permitted by trade agreements and investment treaties. Industrial policies matter for equality and poverty reduction and this link needs to be understood, she urged, noting that last July, the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva agreed to create a new framework to hold transnationals accountable for their violation of human rights. Concluding, she stressed, “Poverty is a political problem that must be tackled by countries.”

Mr. Mario Negre Rossignoli (World Bank) presented a number of key findings from the World Bank Group’s recent policy research report, entitled “A Measured Approach to Ending Poverty and Boosting Shared Prosperity: Concepts, Data, and the Twin Goals.” He indicated that data and measurement are vital to achieve the goals of ending poverty by 2030 and promoting shared prosperity, while underlining the need for data systems at the country level to be strengthened. This would require a focus on data quality and comparability. Data should be collected more frequently to better inform national policy; this would also help international partners identify gaps and prioritize actions. “Business as usual,” he warned, “will not get us there” by 2030.

Mr. Aldo Caliarì (Rethinking Bretton Woods Project) indicated that one of the most revolutionary aspects of the agenda in 2015 when intergovernmental negotiations begin is to tackle not only absolute levels of poverty but also relative levels of poverty. Noting that “Financial regulation is actually ruling and driving rather than serving,” Mr. Caliarì highlighted the need to reframe the financial system and to address all aspects of finance, including a shift from finance-driven development to sustainable development-driven finance. If, for example, financial actors hold and speculate on environmental aspects such as ecosystems and water services, this will lead to

instability and distortion, he cautioned. In order to reduce inequality, he recommended that financial market regulation should: i) strengthen the enabling environment for regulators to ease the boom and bust cycles in the financial sector – in boom times, the highest incomes benefit from it rather than in bust times, when the lowest incomes cannot adapt, thereby widening the gap between upper and lower income quintiles; ii) provide global support for the utilization of “equalizing” policy tools (e.g. taxes, wages and monetary policies); and iii) ensure that the resolution of collapsing financing firms can be done without resorting to public budgetary support. As part of efforts to reform the international monetary system, Mr. Caliarì further called for putting in place a system that puts job creation at the center.

Mr. Nelson Muffuh (Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General) focused on the evolving nature of the post-2015 development agenda planning effort and noted that the global UN-led conversation, the result of an open, inclusive and transparent initiative, is unprecedented. The task at hand is to ensure that civil society and other stakeholders continue to be meaningfully engaged as part of the process going forward. Member States – as final decision makers on post-2015 outcomes – will have to consider all of the emerging viewpoints that have been highlighted. One of the key issues is the issue of inequality and ending poverty, and the need to ensure a right-based approach that leaves no one behind and reaches the most vulnerable. Regarding sustainable consumption and production, there is a need to transform societies’ economies and the way we do business. The private sector has an important role to play, he stressed, a responsible one, not harming but rather positively contributing towards advancing sustainable development for people and the planet, and not just for profit. Different UN agencies engaging with civil society can facilitate the involvement of civil society and other stakeholders into the next development agenda, ensuring they are consulted and part of the implementing and monitoring process. Concluding, he noted that the UN system had reflected on how to ensure clarity regarding the post-2015 process, coming up with the slogan “Time for Global Action.” Member States, deliberating on the final outcomes, need to respond to the aspiration of people who need to be heard and engage constructively, he urged.

In the open discussion that followed, participants raised a number of points including how best to capture the contributions of civil society and increase funding for their work, how to reach smaller CSOs and some of the challenges around that engagement, how to put in place an accountability framework for the enabling environment, and what is the role of civil society in keeping governments and business accountable.

Mini presentations

The format of mini-presentations was used for the first time, allowing civil society to present their initiatives, stimulating an interactive discussion amongst participants.



— **Mr. Simon Moss** (Managing Director, Global Poverty Project) presented the “Global Citizens” campaign to end poverty. The Global Poverty Project is an international education and advocacy organization working towards the end of extreme poverty by 2030. The initiative works towards this objective by amplifying the voices and actions of

global citizens who are part of the campaign and is focused on northern markets. The age level of the target audience is 15-39, who are online consumers of information but who also want to be engaged and learn. The Project designs campaigns around issues and runs events and other outreach activities, working with key influencers to build a movement that directly targets the grassroots demographic most likely to take action. The Global Poverty Project focuses policy campaigning on six themes (health; education; food, water and sanitation; women and girls; innovation and enterprise; environmental sustainability) through the lens of aid, trade and good governance. Mr. Moss presented, among others, the example of a campaign on the Global Partnership for Education and its efforts to raise funds for quality primary education, noting that the strength of the campaign was the power of the public engaging on policy issues.

— **Mr. Andrew Mack** (Director of AMGlobal) presented the new *.NGO* and *.ONG* generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) on internet. Mr. Mack indicated that NGOs around the world vary in terms of size, scope and mission, but nearly every NGO shares three common challenges: the need to raise funds, the need to be visible, and the need to coordinate and partner with other NGOs. Mr. Mack stated that as record numbers of citizens go online, especially in developing countries, NGOs are turning to the internet to help them elevate their work to the next level, to help them grow and increase impact. The presentation explored the opportunities for global civil society in the changing and expanding online space, emphasizing how non-governmental organizations — particularly NGOs from the global South — can leverage these changes to build networks and skills, access international donor funds, and create a positive and productive online community.



Breakout Session 1 — Civil Society Consultations by International Organizations and MDBs: Lessons Learned

Chair/Active Moderator: Flavia Milano, Civil Society Specialist, IDB

- *Karla Chaman*, Senior Communications Officer, IMF
 - *Kallayaphorn (Jasmine) Jaruphand*, Special Assistant to the Director, UN Millennium Campaign
 - *Susan Alzner*, Officer in Charge, UN-NGLS New York
 - *Henriot Nader*, Fondation Haïtienne pour le Développement Intégral Latino-Americain et Caribéen (FONHDILAC)
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This breakout session considered public consultations with civil society from various perspectives, and provided a platform for frank discussion. Moderating the session, **Ms. Flavia Milano** (Inter-American Development Bank) indicated that public consultations are a way to legitimize the work the IDB carries out, and the IDB is currently reviewing its guidelines on public consultations. She noted that consultations

can provide a framework for a legitimate two-way discussion to listen to local communities, creating opportunities with the main actors who will have the agency to carry out the project. Public consultations always raise expectations and there is a critical need to manage these expectations. She highlighted a number of basic principles that underpin meaningful consultation: i) accessibility – both in terms of place (especially important for rural communities and Indigenous Peoples) and in language; ii) transparency upfront is essential as participants need to know how their input to the consultation will be used; iii) inclusion – need to understand which stakeholders should be involved; iv) reciprocity – consultation holders need to give some time and input back on what they have received; v) length – how long should the consultation last? Ms. Milano also directed attention to the high costs of undertaking consultations. **Mr. Henriot Nader** (Fondation Haïtienne pour le Développement Intégral Latino-Américain et Caribéen) indicated that he worked at the grassroots level in Haiti and shared his experience with IDB's Civil Society Consulting Groups (ConSOC) Consultations. The consultations provide civil society with a platform to participate in elaborating the agenda, providing inputs and in monitoring IDB projects. They also empower civil society to put pressure on the IDB, governments and implementing agencies to be more responsible and accountable. In Haiti, the public consultations take place through face-to-face dialogues, and it is essential to identify interested parties for the consultation through a mechanism where stakeholders can identify problems and discuss the skills they can bring to solving problems.

Ms. Jasmine Jaruphand (UN Millennium Campaign) shared an historic overview of the Millennium Campaign and their recent wide-scale outreach exercise to ordinary citizens through the MY World survey, with over 5 million contributing participants worldwide. The survey forms part of the larger UN “global conversation” initiative, which involved partnerships across the UN system, and used a combination of on-line, off-line and mobile phone technologies, reaching out to some of the most marginalized members of society. The majority of the MY World votes were collected offline through door-to-door polling, coming from young people under 30 from low to medium Human Development Index countries. Participants were asked to pick six of 16 priorities for a better life and their answers helped build a one-of-a-kind dataset. It represents the biggest survey ever conducted by the UN, with respondents from 193 countries. Going forward, the MY World survey and World We Want platform will be used to raise awareness on the new agenda and its goals. She further indicated that participants at the high-level global meeting that concluded the UN Development Group's post-2015 dialogues on “Partnerships with Civil Society” highlighted the need to set up and maintain accountability mechanisms that monitor partnerships and progress in implementation efforts.

Ms. Karla Chaman (International Monetary Fund) shared insight from her cumulated work experience at the World Bank, IDB and the IMF engaging with civil society. She drew attention to an increasingly interconnected world, and the need for multilateral organizations to catch up with the dynamics of the outside world. Emphasizing the very fast pace of communication, and the fact that mobile phones will soon outnumber the number of inhabitants on the planet, she indicated that nothing can replace face-to-face interaction. Referring to the democratization of information, she also cautioned against information that can be inaccurate or inexact. In terms of consultations with civil society, she echoed Ms. Milano's point on the need to manage mutual expectations and how impact will be measured in order to ensure that the work is relevant. The Fund was working to make civil society engagement more effective and was reviewing their guidelines, which could provide a breakthrough in institutionalizing IMF engagement with civil society going forward. She underlined

the critical importance of listening to civil society, indicating that a consultation process could not begin until civil society had been listened to, and had been able to communicate their perspectives, insights and concerns.

Ms. Susan Alzner (UN-NGLS, New York) drew attention to the “hope” that civil society assigns to the United Nations, and the shared responsibility UN entities have in holding that hope in their day-to-day work. Ms. Alzner spoke of constraints and how to manage expectations while measuring up to people’s hopes, indicating that this distilled down into caring – caring enough to listen to what people are saying. She highlighted the importance of demonstrating a caring capacity in how work is carried out, which also helps to establish a foundation of trust. To carry out a consultation, Ms. Alzner said that technical and language capacity are needed, as well as a deep understanding of the issues the consultation will focus on, and an ability to situate yourself in the local context. In terms of measuring impact, she emphasized that there must be a clear target and that it has political relevance in UN processes. The subject of the consultation must be a priority topic and the outcome must be delivered to the co-chairs of the process and to the Secretary-General and the Office of the President of the General Assembly. Another key element was to make sure the timing works so that it can have political impact. In terms of the consultations UN-NGLS had undertaken on the post-2015 development agenda, she highlighted the transparent nature of the World We Want platform, where the UN-NGLS consultations had been hosted, as all inputs were uploaded and publicly available.

Breakout Session 2 — Working with the Private Sector and Civil Society: Issues and Challenges around the Partnerships Approach

Chair/Active Moderator: *Taina Nakari*, External Relations Officer, WHO

- *Aaron Rosenberg*, Public Affairs Officer, International Finance Corporation (IFC)
 - *Pierre Martinot-Lagarde*, Special Advisor for Socio-Religious Affairs (ILO)
 - *Aldo Caliori*, Director, Rethinking Bretton Woods Project, Center of Concern
 - *Amol Mehra*, Director, International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR)
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Moderated by **Ms. Taina Nakari** (World Health Organization), this session explored ways in which the international organizations and MDBs can collaborate with civil society and private sector to advance goals for the global public good and sustainable development, while upholding respect for human rights, social and environmental standards.



Mr. Aaron Rosenberg (International Finance Corporation) presented the IFC’s work on promoting sustainable private sector investments in developing countries, and issues and challenges encountered. As the IFC’s environmental and social standards are often higher than those of many of their clients, as well as the regulatory frameworks at the national level, IFC works with its clients first to raise their standards before making the investment and then monitors to

ensure the client upholds these standards during implementation as well. The IFC collaborates with CSOs through funding through regional banks to advocate for the adoption of environmental and social standards at national level and in other sectors. Another role for CSOs is to act as a watchdog to monitor investments made by the private sector, their implementation, impact on people, as well as how regulatory standards are upheld.

Mr. Aldo Caliarì (Rethinking Bretton Woods Project) discussed the use of public private partnerships (PPPs) for infrastructure development, where private funds are sought to complement public budgets. Private sector entities often require governments to guarantee risks, such as inflation, currency exchange or cost-overrun that may arise from such investments. However, the nature of private sector business is taking risks and in PPPs, the private sector should be expected to carry the responsibility of those risks. Contracts with the private sector should be negotiated in full transparency, while respecting public regulatory frameworks. In terms of global PPPs, such as the implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 development goals, a framework for upholding human rights must be established. Mr. Caliarì noted that it was important to keep in mind the State's responsibility for protecting the public interest and upholding human rights, whereas the private sector's principal concern is financial gain. In addition, engaging with the private sector can bring a reputational risk to the UN, and therefore it is important to impose a criteria *ex-ante* for the private sector entities that the UN engages with. Mr. Caliarì recommended that criteria for private sector engagement entity should include: no history of allegations for human rights and environmental abuse; a proven track record on delivering sustainable development objectives; no previous involvement in corruption; fully transparent financial reporting; and no conflict of interest with the UN Charter, UN Declaration of Human Rights and the SDG framework, or at least discloses any conflict of interest.

Mr. Amol Mehra (International Accountability Roundtable) highlighted the role of governments in regulating and imposing accountability mechanisms for adhering to human rights. He warned of the global governance gap brought on by globalization between the scope and impact of economic forces and actors, and the need for an accountability framework. Reinforcing Mr. Caliarì's earlier point, he stressed that the framework should hold private sector entities accountable for respecting human rights. Civil society organizations should actively participate in accountability processes, either through playing an informational role or through disseminating and contributing to updating standards through their monitoring function. Civil society could advocate for improved standards for the private sector, and consequently have an influence on improving government standards and regulatory frameworks. The core issue is the need for full transparency in engagement with the private sector.

Mr. Pierre Martinot-Lagarde (International Labour Organization) noted that the ILO has long worked with the public private partnership model. ILO's mandate is to set and enforce labour standards, and in their internal governance both workers and employers are consulted. ILO engages in social dialogues with employers and governments to improve productivity and increase compliance with labour standards. For example, in Bangladesh there are gaps in labour law standards and their implementation; ILO's role is to bring the relevant actors together for a dialogue on how to improve these standards and their implementation. ILO also engages with employers whose labour standards are not very high in order to improve their compliance, for example related to child labour.

In the discussion that followed, participants emphasized and recommended that when engaging with the private sector it is important to be transparent about what each party is expecting from the partnership. There should be at least one common goal shared by all partners, while they may each have different expectations from the partnership. Identification of good private sector partners can be done through thorough analysis of the partner; such an analysis could involve the criteria mentioned earlier. The criteria can also be specific depending on the entity. For example, WHO does not engage with tobacco or arms industries as the products of these industries directly affect human health. With the UN increasingly engaging with the private sector, participants stressed that it was important to avoid the influence of financial interest on the outcome of the activity, in addition to competitive neutrality which means that no private sector entity should appear to benefit from the partnership more than any other private sector entity.

Day Two

Plenary session: “Perspectives and analyses from international organizations and civil society on financing the new development agenda: Toward the Third International Financing for Development (FFD) Conference”

Active Moderator: Hamish Jenkins, Programme Officer, UN-NGLS

- *Jos Verbeek*, Lead Economist, World Bank
 - *Daniel Platz*, Financing for Development Office, UN-DESA
 - *Axel Bertuch-Samuels*, Deputy Director and IMF Special Representative to the UN
 - *Jo Marie Griesgraber*, Executive Director, New Rules for Global Finance Coalition
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Opening the day two plenary session, the moderator, **Mr. Hamish Jenkins** (UN-NGLS, Geneva) provided a brief overview of the recent state of play on the financing for development landscape, including key elements from the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of Sustainable Development Financing and how it resonates with the FFD process. Mr. Jenkins noted that it was strategic to place the Third International Conference on Financing for Development ahead of the UN summit on the post-2015 development agenda as the level of ambition of the post-2015 agenda will depend in large extent on the level of ambition of what is agreed in Addis in July 2015.



Mr. Jos Verbeek (World Bank) gave an overview of the Bank’s activities in terms of the FfD process, in partnership with other multilateral banks and the IMF. Drawing attention to the FfD Conference in Addis Ababa, the post-2015 summit in September and COP-21 of the UNFCCC in late 2015, he indicated that “The three events rise or fall together.” The post-2015 SDGs financing framework will need to build on lessons learned from the

Monterrey Conference in 2002 and efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, as well as changes in the global economic landscape (e.g. growth of emerging economies, increasing role of the private sector, impacts of climate change). The financial landscape has changed substantially since 2000 – while official development assistance (ODA) has hardly changed, private flows and remittances have increased significantly. Meeting the SDGs will require finance (in terms of domestic resource mobilization, better and smarter aid, foreign direct investment, etc.); data (on household well-being, national accounts, sustainability, etc.); and implementation (through effective institutions and policies, and a cross-sectoral approach). Part of the SDG financial challenges lies in leveraging private flows and public sector resources towards different needs, including social needs (largely what the MDGs focused on); sustainable financing needs (including energy, infrastructure, jobs and growth); and global and regional public goods (including the impacts of climate change and the management of oceans, forests and biodiversity). Mr. Verbeek drew attention to critical elements of FfD as improving domestic resource mobilization; the use of better and smarter aid; unlocking private investment for development; and attracting FDI, remittances and philanthropic finance for development objectives.

Mr. Axel Bertuch-Samuels (International Monetary Fund) drew attention to the Fund’s historical engagement in the FfD discussion. He noted that in terms of the Monterrey Consensus, one could either see the glass “half empty” or “half full.” He was of the opinion that the glass was half full given that much of what was laid out in the Monterrey Consensus has moved forward, citing debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. He situated the current FfD discussion within the global context, indicating that growth rates in developing countries were significantly greater than in advanced economies. The share of developing countries’ GDP increased from 43% to 50%, largely through China and India’s average growth rate of more than 8% in the last 15 years. In addition, the volume of exports from developing countries grew consistently faster than exports from developed countries or the world as a whole from 1990 to 2008, as did the share of developing countries’ exports in the value of total world exports. At the same time, key financial flows, ODA, private capital flows and remittances have increased from US\$336 billion in 2001 to over US\$1.4 trillion in 2013. He stressed, however, that the pace of the global recovery has been sluggish in recent years with low potential growth in advanced economies affecting the pace of recovery. From a medium-term perspective, low potential output growth and “secular stagnation” remain important risks in advanced economies given that robust demand growth has not yet emerged, and global growth for 2015 is projected at 3.8%. In addition, the outlook for ODA flows is clouded by fiscal challenges in advanced economies – a particular worry for Least Developed Countries and fragile States, he cautioned. Concluding, Mr. Bertuch-Samuels stressed that the IMF would continue to give high priority to the identification and prevention of potential crises and to strengthening the underpinnings of international financial stability, as well as providing technical assistance on domestic resource mobilization and development.

Mr. Daniel Platz (UN-DESA’s Financing for Development Office) indicated that the preparatory process for Addis would be held in two phases: a substantive preparatory phase (from October to December 2014) and drafting sessions and informal consultations (January, April and June 2015). A draft outcome document would be shared in February 2015, followed by negotiations until the Addis Conference. Mr. Platz provided a brief overview of the substantive discussions that had taken place from 10-13 November, including a discussion on the first day on the “Global Context;” the second

day focused on domestic resource mobilization, including a discussion on the phasing out of subsidies, as well as progressive taxation; the third day considered international public finance, while the final day saw a discussion on private finance, including how to mobilize long-term investments for sustainable development. Looking ahead, he identified three challenges to consider: i) a substantive challenge in looking at the different views of the developing and developed countries and how they can be brought together, particularly in terms of PPPs, remittances, public goods financing, climate finance, etc; ii) the procedural challenge of avoiding a duplication of efforts between the post-2015 and FfD processes, while ensuring very close coordination; and iii) the engagement challenge of having buy-in from major institutional stakeholders, leading to political convergence on a number of levels, including between the two processes and between developed and developing countries around the different issues mentioned earlier.

Ms. Jo-Marie Griesgraber (New Rules for Global Finance) addressed a range of issues, including the fractured dynamics of the “politics” surrounding the FfD and other processes; related to this a lack of a coherent implementation processes, whether in terms of financial issues, climate, or solving global poverty; and the disjuncture between ordinary people who need decent jobs and those who have too much money. She indicated that the balance was off in both political and financial spheres. Turning her attention to domestic resource mobilization, she indicated that the current equivalent of the debt campaign was the tax campaign, citing the Robin Hood tax in the UK as an example. There was an urgent need to address illicit financial outflows and tax havens. She also touched on reciprocal information exchange in common reporting standards and some of the issues encountered vis-à-vis tax havens. She called on the IMF to help low-income countries with domestic resource mobilization efforts, and highlighted the more general need to address inequalities and increase wages.

Breakout Session 3 — The Role of Human Rights and Justice for All in Implementing the New Development Agenda

Active Moderator: Mirella Dummar Frahi, Civil Affairs Officer, Civil Society Team, UNODC

- *Safir Syed*, Civil Society Section, OHCHR
 - *Suki Beavers*, Policy Advisor, Inclusive Political Processes, UNDP
 - *Jessica Evans*, Senior Researcher/Advocate for International Financial Institutions, Human Rights Watch
 - *Kate Donald*, Director of Human Rights in Development Program, Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)
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Human right and “justice for all” are two cross-cutting themes of the new development agenda. This session provided an opportunity for UN agencies and civil society organizations to discuss priorities and reflect on challenges and potential areas of cooperation to ensure these priorities remain on the agenda and are implemented once agreed by Member States. The



moderator, **Ms. Mirella Dummar Frahi** (UNODC), introduced the session by detailing some sustainable development gaps left unfilled by the MDGs because of corruption. She indicated that the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is the legally-binding universal instrument to use when monitoring the implementation of the post-2015 development goals. In addition, access to justice and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions were essential in creating an environment where human right principles could apply. **Mr. Safir Syed** (OHCHR) noted that from his organization's perspective, civil society represents individuals and groups that promote and protect human rights and States have legal obligation to create economic, political and cultural conditions for civic activities. These are not only principles; these are also treaties that States have undertaken to uphold. He pointed to four essential human rights dimensions: freedom of expression; freedom of association; peaceful demonstration; and the right to participate in public affairs. People need to be able to express ideas, to create, to come together, and to claim their economic and social rights. To carry out their work, civil society needs a free flow of information and access to data and reports in order to articulate concerns and formulate policies. They also need long-term access to resources, financing, and access to meeting places and to technology. In addition, civil society must have a place at the decision-making table. Mr. Syed suggested that the work of civil society is often contrary to the government's position, therefore they face challenges that impede their work: including legislation and rules limiting freedom, resources and independence; the existence of vague rules and discretionary hours used to prevent civil society actors from carrying out their work; "extra-legal" measures, such as burning offices, physical assaults, threatening phone calls and text messages, and torture. OHCHR seeks to create space, providing guidance, encouraging participation in the conceptualization of projects, and organizes meetings between civil society and governments.

Ms. Kate Donald (Center of Economic and Social Rights) emphasized that the new agenda recognizes that all rights are indivisible, and accountability, transparency and access to justice are key. In order to be successful, there must be constructive engagement between civil society and UN agencies. In terms of financing for development, she said that the focus should be on financing the goals, including through mobilizing domestic resource because it is the most transparent way to finance development and could be done through a "fiscal revolution" in the form of progressive taxation. For accountability arrangements, she emphasized that human rights are the core issue and in order to ensure the goals are reached, UN agencies and civil society have to be involved. Civil society participation is crucial for democracy and transparency advocacy, and the diversity of civil society is essential in order not to lose marginalized voices.

Ms. Suki Beavers (UNDP) noted that her organization's tag line is "empowered lives, resilient nations." Bringing development to people is a reflection of the importance of achieving development goals, and is also a reflection of the development process that is equally as important. She drew attention to the role civil society plays in capacity building and development, noting that the process is complex and multidimensional. From the UNDP point of view, she noted that opening up the space for civil society to build a trusted relationship that goes across governments and pushing space for consultations between civil society and different parts of the State are things that need to be systematized. In terms of the rule of law, she highlighted the importance of engaging with the security and justice sectors as they have an impact on development and are intrinsically bound to how human rights are positively or negatively implicated. She highlighted the need for a

multidimensional approach to capacity building, including a push for human rights and rule of law in the context of work on corruption and poverty. **Ms. Jessica Evans** (Human Rights Watch) noted the new agenda provides an opportunity to bring together three agendas: human rights, development and environment and can work toward addressing both development initiatives and environmental initiatives that violate human rights. She provided an example of a development initiative in Ethiopia to relocate populations from their land with the purpose of better health care and education, etc, which violated human rights. She drew attention to discrimination and marginalization in development projects on the basis of political opinion, physical disabilities, gender and sexual orientation, highlighting the need to measure all forms of discrimination. She further emphasized the role played by civil society in preventing human rights abuses, and the obligation to prevent potential reprisals against civil society when they are challenging development projects.

In the discussion that followed, participants reiterated that human rights and justice for all are pre-conditions for sustainable development. The rule of law could be interpreted in different ways and it was essential not only to build the capacity of institutions to implement it, but also to ensure that the concept of justice is understood by communities. It was noted that while treaties exist and were largely ratified, it was necessary to manage expectations because in reality it takes generations to make changes on the ground. Concerns were raised about the shrinking space for CSOs. One speaker gave examples in countries where intimidations and reprisals are perpetuated. It was also felt that as goal 16 calls for inclusiveness it was necessary to protect the CSOs who would be responsible for monitoring the implementation of these goals. The discussion also focused on international human right treaties, including labour conventions that exist but are often not implemented, hence the need for international organizations to increase advocacy with Member States to recall non-negotiable principles. It was also noted that many organizations, including UNODC, had adopted internal human right guidelines. Therefore justice for all and the human right language had to be preserved in implementing the post-2015 agenda and hooked whenever possible to economic arguments to ensure sustainable development.

Breakout Session 4 — What are Effective Approaches to Operational Collaboration with Civil Society? How Can Financial Institutions Support Actors in the Social Solidarity Economy (SSE)?

Active Moderator: John Garrison, Senior Civil Society Specialist, World Bank

- *Biljana Radonjic Ker-Lindsay*, Head, Civil Society Engagement Unit, EBRD
 - *Andres Falconer*, Partnership Coordinator, Global Partnership for Social Accountability, World Bank
 - *Hamish Jenkins*, Senior Programme Officer, UN-NGLS
 - *Sylvain Browa*, Director, Aid Effectiveness, Save the Children
 - *Yvon Poirier*, Board Member, Inter-Continental Network of the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS)
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This session examined the approaches being undertaken by World Bank Group (WBG) and EBRD to increase operational collaboration with civil society, from both an MDB



and CSO perspective. It also explored how the development community, including international financial institutions, could collaborate in providing training, capacity building, and the provision of adequate access to affordable long-term finance to help lift the potential of SSE organizations. The moderator, **Mr. John Garrison** (WBG), began the session by presenting the World Bank’s “Civil Society Engagement Continuum” in order to help define what is meant by “operational collaboration” – as distinct from other forms of engagement, such as policy dialogue or consultation. The continuum comprises five steps: information dissemination; policy dialogue; consultation; operational collaboration; and institutional partnerships. The WBG has found that the greater involvement CSOs have with the Bank, the higher level of influence they can also have. WBG – CSO relations have evolved significantly on the first three levels over the past thirty years, but hopefully they will they also advance along the last two steps of the continuum – collaboration and partnerships – going forward.

Mr. Andres Falconer (WBG) made a presentation on the [Global Partnership for Social Accountability](#) (GPSA). He explained that while citizen engagement at the WBG often means citizen’s participation in Bank-financed operations, GPSA tries to flip this by using Bank operations to encourage CSOs to engage with governments and improve governance. GPSA has three components: funding (funds CSOs directly and not through governments), knowledge-sharing, and global partnerships. It is an instrument largely geared to promoting efficiency, accountability, and quality of public services. In order to be funded, grantees need to demonstrate that their proposal will address concrete problems of poor public services and/or governance. A ground-breaking feature is that CSOs have the same voting power as government and donor agency representatives on the GPSA Steering Committee which decides who receives funding. **Ms. Biljana Radonjic Ker-Lindsay** (EBRD) talked about the EBRD’s experience in engaging CSOs, which goes beyond the requirements of its policies on public information and environmental and social issues. She explained that EBRD is an international financial institution that focuses on private sector investments in 35 countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East. EBRD has a dedicated unit in charge of institutional engagement with civil society, which has traditionally focused on information disclosure, policy dialogue and consultations. Most recently, the unit has started collaborating with civil society and enhancing capacity of local community groups and CSOs when there is a link with EBRD’s investments and policy dialogue activities in relation to: i) sustainable energy and resources; ii) economic inclusion; and iii) investment climate and governance issues. Through this new initiative, the EBRD utilizes CSOs’ outreach to their own constituencies as an additional channel to raise awareness among the local communities and stimulate new patterns of social behaviour. It also focuses on improving CSO institutional capacity, technical expertise and communication and advocacy skills.

Mr. Sylvain Browa (Save the Children) spoke about Save the Children's experience in engaging with official donor agencies and posed some framing questions. While Save has had some effective but limited experiences in collaborating operationally with the WBG through project financing, their sense is that CSOs are still not considered full-fledged "clients" or partners of the Bank and other MDBs. The question, Mr. Browa asked, is what will be next frontier look like in these evolving relations? Will operational staff within MDBs evolve to truly treat CSOs as strategic partners rather than secondary service providers? Can MDBs effectively help CSOs engage governments without fear, and bridge the gap between CSOs and the private sector? Finally, who are the ultimate "clients" of these MDBs, governments or the citizens they are supposed to represent?

Mr. Hamish Jenkins (UN-NGLS Geneva) talked about the United Nations' experience with the emerging "social and solidarity economy" (SSE) sector. This is a term which refers to social enterprises that adopt an alternative, non-profit economic approach geared to helping communities achieve sustainable development objectives. While this movement is largely invisible in most policy circles, the UN created an inter-agency task force on SSE (TFSSE) which now includes 19 agencies and observers from the SSE sector. The TFSSE published a Position Paper last July: [Social Solidarity Economy and the Challenge of Sustainable Development](#). One of the tasks this body is exploring is whether MDBs and other financial institutions can provide financial support to this sector in a sustainable fashion. **Mr. Yvon Poirier** (Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy – RIPESS), one of the observers in the TFSSE, complemented Mr. Jenkin's presentation by noting that most SSE groups don't define themselves as traditional CSOs. Unlike microfinance, the overall focus is on promoting sustainable social enterprises which benefit whole communities. He gave examples from Africa and Asia of investments needed to improve business activities in low-income communities. This requires establishing partnerships with financial institutions as well as local/regional governments. The potential of SSE enterprises lies in their ability to involve community members, empower women through their leadership roles in these social enterprises, and create new jobs.

In the discussion that followed, participants brought up a number of issues, including the specific experiences of other MDBs in the area of civil society engagement. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), for instance, is currently piloting co-financing with CSOs of large infrastructure projects (their most recent experience is partnering with World Vision on a large housing construction project). They feel that it is desirable to collaborate with CSOs, but it is difficult to figure out with whom as very few CSOs have the size and/or flexibility to support large-scale development efforts. The African Development Bank (AfDB) representative explained that they don't have a granting mechanism for civil society, but are developing other forms of engagement, such as mapping out CSOs in different countries and sectors. They have set up an advisory group to guide their engagement efforts. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) maintains CSO advisory committees in 26 countries which provide advice on IDB policies and programmes at the country level. They also annually convene CSOs from these committees and other CSOs from throughout the region to discuss regional policies and programmes. Their civil society unit is now working to convince IDB staff that operational collaboration with CSOs should be considered a "business opportunity," but it takes time to change staff perceptions. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) faces similar challenges and opportunities. While the GEF has an independent and strong network of CSOs (composed of some 500 CSOs) that has been monitoring and participating in GEF activities for over 20 years, there are questions about

how representative and broad-based it is. More recently, five large international CSOs (including the WWF, IUCN, and Conservation International) have become “implementing agencies” and will start channeling GEF grants to smaller CSOs.

In terms of SSEs, a participant argued this sector should be seen as a natural partner for MDBs since it aims to promote economic growth through small enterprises and job creation. In addition, it is generally just as expensive for the private sector to lend to small enterprises as it is to a huge companies, thus MDBs should consider financing SSE ventures. Another participant noted that there are many innovative civil society engagement approaches being implemented by the MDBs and UN agencies, but they are quite distinct in nature with varying degrees of speed and impact. There was a final discussion on the true motivations behind these engagement initiatives and whether they reflected institutional priorities or were more geared to improve the image of the MDBs. Colleagues at the WBG noted that engagement with civil society did indeed start out as a way to protect its image and respond to street protests some 30 years ago, but that today CSOs are increasingly seen as part of the Bank’s strategy to strengthen the development impact of its work on the ground.

Final Plenary Session

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- **Moderators: Adam Taylor, Lead for Faith-Based Initiative (World Bank), Flavia Milano (IDB), Beth Peoch (UN-NGLS Geneva)**
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In his closing summary remarks, **Mr. Adam Taylor** (World Bank) drew attention to the depth and breadth of the discussions over the two days, noting that it was

striking how much emphasis had been placed on the post-2015 agenda. However, he pointed to the remaining year left to devoting efforts to moving ahead on the existing Millennium Development Goals. He underscored the need to empower civil society to be able to shape and influence the post-2015 sustainable development goals; a related question was the need to collectively figure out how we popularize that agenda and try to generate greater urgency around it. Mr. Taylor underscored the importance of learning from each other and sharing valuable experience going forward. He also highlighted the role of faith in development, indicating that 80% of people around the world identify with some kind of religion, and how faith shapes and permeates development in many different ways. He was part to the Inter-Agency Task Force on Faith and Development. **Ms. Flavia Milano** (IDB) thanked the audience for the fruitful engagement based on the new ideas and new connections that had been built over the two days. **Ms. Beth Peoch** thanked the World Bank, the IDB and the IMF for their generosity in hosting the event, and paid special tribute to Mr. John Garrison, who had been part of these civil society focal point meetings since they had started in 2003. No final decision was made on the date and venue of the 2015 meeting.



11th Annual Meeting of UN and International Organizations Civil Society Focal Points

MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER:

8:30 am

Registration, welcome coffee and seating
World Bank (701 18th St. NW, first basement level)

OPENING SESSION (JB1-080)

9:00 Joint welcome remarks by World Bank/IMF/IDB and UN-NGLS

9:15 *Edith Jibunoh*, Advisor and Head, Civil Society Team, External and Corporate Relations, World Bank

9:25 *Thomas Gass*, Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN-DESA ASG

FIRST PLENARY SESSION (JB1-080)

9:40 "Post-2015: Promoting a Common Sustainable Development Agenda to End Poverty and Reduce Inequality"

This session will focus on the growing significance of inequality and unsustainable consumption and production patterns and the different approaches taken by international organizations and CSOs to frame and address these interlinked challenges.

- Active Moderator: *Thomas Gass*, ASG/UN-DESA
- *Mario Negre Rossignoli*, Senior Economist, World Bank
- *H.E. Ms. Nathalie Cely Suárez* (Ambassador of Ecuador to the United States)
- *Nelson Muffuh*, Head of Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement, Executive Office of the Secretary General
- *Aldo Caliari*, Director, Rethinking Bretton Woods Project, Center of Concern

11:00 **COFFEE BREAK** (JB1-080 Foyer)

11:15 GENERAL DISCUSSION AND Q/A (JB1-080)

12:00 **GROUP PHOTO** (JB1 Staircase)

LUNCHEON DISCUSSION AT THE IMF

(IMF HQ2 Building, 1900 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Conference Hall 1)

12:15 Discussion with *Sabina Bhatia*, Division Chief of Public Affairs, CSO Outreach, IMF

MINI CSO PRESENTATIONS (JB1-080)

14:30 The mini presentations will include brief presentations, followed by a Q&A session.

- *Andrew Mack*, Director of AMGlobal, on the new NGO/ONG internet domains
- *Simon Moss*, Managing Director, Global Poverty Project, on their global citizens' campaign to end poverty



SIMULTANEOUS BREAKOUT SESSIONS

15:30 - 18:15

(The sessions will consist of: presentations (max. one hour); a 15 min coffee break (JB1-080 Foyer); followed by the sharing of experiences / general discussion)

16:30 **COFFEE BREAK** (JB1-080 Foyer)

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 — CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATIONS BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MDBs: LESSONS LEARNED (JB1-080)

This breakout session will consider lessons learned from international organizations and multilateral development banks in terms of public consultations with civil society.

- Chair/Active Moderator: *Flavia Milano*, Civil Society Specialist, IDB
- *Karla Chaman*, Senior Communications Officer, IMF
- *Kallayaphorn (Jasmine) Jaruphand*, Special Assistant to the Director, UN Millennium Campaign
- *Susan Alzner*, Officer in Charge, UN-NGLS New York
- *Henriot Nader*, Fondation Haïtienne pour le Développement Intégral Latino-Américain et Caraïben (FONHDILAC)

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 — WORKING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES AROUND THE PARTNERSHIPS APPROACH (JB1-075)

This session will explore ways in which the international organizations and MDBs can collaborate with civil society and private sector to advance goals for the global public good and sustainable development, while upholding respect for human rights, social and environmental standards.

- Chair/Active Moderator: *Taina Nakari*, External Relations Officer, WHO
- *Aaron Rosenberg*, Public Affairs Officer, International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- *Pierre Martinot-Lagarde*, Special Advisor for Socio-Religious Affairs (ILO)
- *Aldo Caliarì*, Director, Rethinking Bretton Woods Project, Center of Concern
- *Amol Mehra*, Director, International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR)

COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT THE IDB

(1330 New York Avenue, NW - 7th Floor Terrace)

18:45 Hosted by Inter-American Development Bank, with remarks from the IDB Vice President, Alexandre Meira da Rosa



TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER

OPENING SESSION (JB1-080)

9:00 Recap of the breakout sessions by the moderators

SECOND PLENARY SESSION (JB1-080)

9:30 “Perspectives and analyses from international organizations and civil society on financing the new development agenda: Toward the Third International Financing for Development (FFD) Conference”

An ambitious and transformative post-2015 development agenda requires a comprehensive financing framework for sustainable development. As the third International Conference on Financing for Development will be held in Addis in July 2015, this session will focus on progress made since the two previous FFD Conferences, identify new and emerging issues, including the need to support the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, as well as ways to reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process.

- Active Moderator: *Hamish Jenkins*, Senior Programme Officer, UN-NGLS
- *Jos Verbeek*, Lead Economist, World Bank
- *Daniel Platz*, Financing for Development Office, UN-DESA
- *Axel Bertuch-Samuels*, Deputy Director and IMF Special Representative to the UN
- *Jo Marie Griesgraber*, Executive Director, New Rules for Global Finance Coalition

11:00 **COFFEE BREAK (JB1-080 Foyer)**

11:15 GENERAL DISCUSSION AND Q/A (JB1-080)

12:30 **OPEN LUNCH AT THE WORLD BANK CAFETERIA (Main Complex Building – Basement Level 1)**

SIMULTANEOUS BREAKOUT SESSIONS

14:00 – 16:45

(The sessions will consist of: presentations (max. one hour); a 15 min coffee break (JB1-080); followed by the sharing of experiences/general discussion)

15:15 **COFFEE BREAK (JB1-080 Foyer)**

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 — THE ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE FOR ALL IN IMPLEMENTING THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AGENDA (JB1-080)

Human rights and “justice for all” are two cross-cutting themes of the new development agenda. The session will reflect on challenges and potential areas of cooperation to ensure these priorities remain on the agenda and are implemented once agreed by Member States. Taking stock of lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals will also be essential.

- Active Moderator: *Mirella Dummar Frahi*, Civil Affairs Officer, Civil Society Team, UNODC
- *Safir Syed*, Civil Society Section, OHCHR
- *Suki Beavers*, Policy Advisor, Inclusive Political Processes, UNDP
- *Jessica Evans*, Senior Researcher/Advocate for International Financial Institutions, Human Rights Watch



- *Kate Donald*, Director of Human Rights in Development Program, Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)

BREAKOUT SESSION 4 — WHAT ARE EFFECTIVE APPROACHES TO OPERATIONAL COLLABORATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY? HOW CAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUPPORT ACTORS IN THE SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY (SSE)? (JB1-075)

This breakout session will consider two concurrent but distinct experiences related to the growing global trend of operational collaboration between international organizations, governments and civil society at the local level. It will firstly examine the approaches being undertaken by the WBG and EBRD to increase operational collaboration with civil society, from both an MDB and CSO perspective. Secondly, it will explore how the development community, including international financial institutions, could collaborate in providing training, capacity building, and the provision of adequate access to affordable long-term finance to help lift the potential of SSE organizations.

- *Active Moderator: John Garrison*, Senior Civil Society Specialist, World Bank
- *Biljana Radonjic Ker-Lindsay*, Head, Civil Society Engagement Unit, EBRD
- *Andres Falconer*, Partnership Coordinator, Global Partnership for Social Accountability, World Bank
- *Hamish Jenkins*, Senior Programme Officer, UN-NGLS
- *Sylvain Browa*, Director, Aid Effectiveness, Save the Children
- *Yvon Poirier*, Board Member, Inter-Continental Network of the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS)

FINAL PLENARY SESSION (JB1-080)

16:45 – 18:00

- Moderators: *Adam Taylor*, Lead for Faith-Based Initiative (World Bank), *Flavia Milano* (IDB), *Karla Chaman* (IMF), and *Beth Pech* (Officer in Charge, UN-NGLS)
- Wrap-up of the breakout session discussions
- Information sharing and identifying opportunities for collaboration
- Venue and host of the next meeting

**List of Participants
(as of 13 November)**

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