About the United Nations (UN)

Supplemental Material related to the Community Conversation:

Connecting Community Engagement to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Facilitators:
Gail Robinson
Gail Robinson Consulting
gail@gailrobinsonconsulting.com

Beth Blissman, Ph.D.
UN Rep, Loretto Community
bblissman@lorettocommunity.org

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The United Nations (UN)

- International organization of 193 Sovereign States founded in June 1945 (ratified Oct. 24, 1945) to ensure that there were no more world wars
- Maintains international peace & security
- Promotes social progress, better living standards, human rights and freedoms
UN Headquarters / Locations

Also locations in:

Geneva, Switzerland (1966)

Vienna, Austria (1979)

Nairobi, Kenya (1996)

United Nations Headquarters Complex in New York City, USA
1. “To maintain international peace and security, . . . take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace . . . .”

2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.

3. “To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting . . . human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.”

4. To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.
How does the UN work?

The areas outlined below are commonly called the six principal organs of the United Nations, and constitute how the UN organizes its work.

*Note: International Trusteeship System completed its task and no longer meets*
How does the UN work, cont’d.

アウトライン・マークを付けて記述

・The General Assembly: The GA Deals with issues of military conflicts, arms race, sustainable development, human rights, status of children, women and youth – and makes recommendations to the Security Council. At the General Assembly, which kicks off each year in mid-September, all 193 member nations are represented.

・The Secretariat: Headed by the Secretary General (currently Antonio Gutierrez), the Secretariat prepares information on various problems so that governments can study them and make recommendations, organizes international conferences, and helps to carry out the decisions of the UN.

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking & representative organ of the United Nations. It meets under its president or Secretary-General in regular yearly sessions, the main part of which lasts from September to December and resumed part from January until all issues are addressed.
How does the UN work, cont’d.

The UN Security Council:

- Investigates any dispute that might lead to international conflict
- Recommends methods and terms of settlement
- Recommends actions against any threats or acts of aggression
- Contains 15 members. Five of these are permanent members with veto power: China, France, Russia, UK & US

The UN Security Council also works closely with the International Court of Justice, located in the Netherlands at The Hague
How does the UN work, cont’d.

ECOSOC, or the Economic and Social Council, coordinates the economic and social work of the United Nations, which includes financing for development. It carries out its work through the following FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS that meet annually:

- Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- Narcotic Drugs
- Population and Development
- Science and Technology for Development
- Social Development
- Statistics
- Status of Women
- Sustainable Development
- United Nations on Forests

Over 3,000 non-governmental organizations work through ECOSOC to give feedback and policy suggestions.
2000 – 2015: Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Similar to a Strategic Plan, the MDGs were implemented in 129 countries to reduce poverty, promote good governance, address crises and preserve the environment.

1. To eradicate **extreme poverty** and **hunger**
2. To achieve **universal primary education**
3. To promote **gender equality** and empower women
4. To reduce **child mortality**
5. To improve **maternal health**
6. To combat **HIV/AIDS**, **malaria**, and other diseases
7. To ensure environmental sustainability
8. To develop a global partnership for development

Achievements were impressive in some areas, yet spotty in others due to a variety of reasons including lack of grassroots input and lack of funding.
2015 – 2030: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

HOW DID THEY COME TO BE? The Post-2015 development agenda and SDG process was one of the outcomes from the Rio +20 conference (June 2012). Member States set a mandate that between Rio +20 and 2015 there should be an "inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly" (UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform).

Many discussions, proposals and meetings were held to develop the Post-2015 agenda:
- Meeting of High-level Political Forum (July 2014)
- Proposed Sustainable Development Goals, formulated by the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (August 2014)
- Report of Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (November 2014)
- Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda (December 2014)

The Post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations began in January 2015 and continued on a monthly basis until August 2015 when a final draft of the agenda was adopted, entitled 'Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. The document includes ALL 193 nation-states and was officially adopted at the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Agenda in September 2015.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. No Poverty
2. No Hunger
3. Good Health
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Clean Energy
8. Good Jobs and Economic Growth
9. Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption
13. Protect the Planet
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace and Justice
17. Partnerships for the Goals
Links to more information about the SDGs:

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs
Click on each goal to find Progress/Information and Targets/Indicators

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf
Go here to find out more about the annual High-level Political Forum, the UN’s central platform for follow-up and review of progress towards the 2030 SDGs.

https://www.worldwewant2030.org/
The World We Want started as a way to gather the priorities of people from every corner of the world to give feedback to the UN and world leaders as they planned the 2030 SDGs – now it is still a way to learn about and visualize the SDGs and give feedback and share visions of success.

http://ysa.org/briefing/youth-action-guide-on-the-sdgs/
Here’s a link to a helpful Youth Action Guide on the SDGs from Youth Service America. (The UN defines youth as ages 18-35.)
SO, WHY SHOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN THE UN? 
(What are the many ways in which the UN might affect YOUR LIFE?)

Maintaining peace and security: 17 peacekeeping operations by 113,000 men and women from 118 countries

Creating peace: bring conflicts to an end—El Salvador, Guatemala, Namibia, Cambodia...40% decline in conflict since 1990


Providing food to the neediest humans around the world

The UN has also played a KEY Role in the following areas:

- International Air Travel
- Global Communications
- Health Issues
- Promoting Human Rights
- International Aid
- Transitions to Democracy
- Improving Literacy
- Reducing Child Mortality

BOOKLET: 60 Ways the United Nations makes a difference
How will higher education institutions globally assist with achieving the SDGs?

How can some (or all) of the SDGs be integrated with your campus’s community engagement goals/visions?

How might the SDGs be integrated into the many different options a community engagement office/center might have for involvement? (service-learning, community service work-study, summer fellowships, public service projects, community-engaged research, community service scholarship programs, winter term internships, leadership programs, etc.)

What NEW language do we need even to discuss current challenges?

Example: Integral Ecology
Integral ecology begins with the recognition that humanity now faces existential crises on multiple fronts: extreme economic disparity, increased competition for resources including land and water, a severely degraded natural world, failing nation states, and a climate on the verge of spinning out of control.
The “integral” in integral ecology is what’s new. It realizes that these crises are not independent, but closely intertwined. (Dave Pruett, Huffington Post)
Session activity: Your suggestions from sticky notes

Community engaged research:
• Comparison of rural characteristics in US to broader context
• Internet conversation with International partners via Skype
• Past class with students self-selecting into it after a study abroad experience
• Volunteer opportunities abroad incorporated into the curriculum
• Look at scalability of all these big goals

Summer fellowships:
• Make local global – Cal Poly sustainability center

Leadership programming:
• Civic action statements

Scholarship programs for students:
• Community service scholarships
• Digital media/multimedia storytelling
• Action opportunities
Session activity: Your suggestions from sticky notes (cont’d)

Social entrepreneurship:
• Peer leader discussions/group reflections

Winter term internships:
• Supporting creation of civic engagement learning at world youth summits, etc.

Service learning courses:
• Risk management issues
• (note that these issues can be alleviated when meeting community partners in other countries via Skype or Zoom)
• CBR course – assigning one SDG to each student to present to the class
• Design a service learning course focused on goals - each student chooses to focus on one – research it and engage in service
Session activity: Your suggestions from sticky notes (cont’d)

Public service projects:
• STEM projects - biodiverse city, water use, recycling/pollution, carbon
• Collaboration with NGOs such as Engineers without Borders
• Incorporate reflection activities into abroad opportunities
• Issue areas for volunteer opportunities - identify corresponding SDG to issue area

Community service work study programs:
• Metrics and goals from SDGs to connect glocal conversations

Alternative breaks:
• SDG guide for alternative breaks
• When marketing trips, identify the SDGs that correspond to work at the location