Voices of Non-Governmental Organizations on Science, Technology and Innovation -and the potential of Culture- for Sustainable Development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals

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Disclaimer:

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The views expressed in this report are solely those of the author and do not imply endorsement by the NGO Branch or the United Nations.

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1. Introduction

1.1. The 2013 United Nations Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review

The acceleration of global environmental change in the 21st century is increasingly posing a risk to ecosystems and societies, with the rise of extreme poverty, conflict, inequality and environmental degradation likely to threaten the post-2015 global development agenda. Following to the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development outcome declaration,[2] the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon has issued a report calling for a global, multi-stakeholder alliance to draw on the innovations provided by science and technology as cross-cutting tools to ensure the sustained societal and environmental wellbeing of future generations.[3]

Recognizing the importance of this challenge, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which serves as the central United Nations forum for discussing international economic, social and environmental issues, chose to focus its 2013 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) on the theme: "Science, Technology and Innovation – and the potential of Culture - for promoting Sustainable Development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The AMR was held on 1 – 4 July 2013 during the High-Level Segment of the Substantive Session of ECOSOC at Les Palais des Nations in Geneva.[4] During keynote addresses, roundtable and panel discussions, ministerial breakfasts, general debates, side events and the annual Innovation Fair, delegates had the opportunity to learn from leading policy makers, practitioners and academics. Participants included government ministers, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), private sector leaders, corporate groups and major financial institutions.

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[2] The Future We Want: Outcome document adopted at Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, 2012. http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf

[3] Report of the Secretary General on "Science, technology and innovation (STI), and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs". http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/adv2013/13_amr_sg_report.pdf

[4] ECOSOC website, 2013 Annual Ministerial Review http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/index13.shtml

1.2. Participation of NGOs in the United Nations Economic and Social Council

The first time that NGOs took a role in formal United Nations deliberations was through ECOSOC in 1946. Article 71 of the United Nations Charter opened the door for suitable arrangements for consultation with NGOs. This relationship with ECOSOC is governed today by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31,[5] which encourages participation from NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC to submit statements to the Council. Statements can be submitted in two formats: written statements, circulated by the Secretary-General to the Council, and oral presentations, delivered during Council meetings. In 2013, nearly 3,800 registered NGOs enjoy consultative status with ECOSOC,[6] highlighting the increasing interest from civil society to participate in United Nations deliberations. The Council holds a four-week substantive session each July, alternating between New York and Geneva, in which NGOs are encouraged to participate.

In order to solicit statements from NGOs on the theme of the AMR, the NGO Branch of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs announced an Open Call for oral and written statements for NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC. NGOs responded in unprecedented numbers as compared to the previous ECOSOC High-Level Segment editions, with 147 written statements and 78 requests to be heard by the Council submitted to the NGO Branch. 50 NGOs were recommended by the NGO Committee to speak at the High-Level Segment and 26 were recommended to speak during other segments of the Substantive Session (see Appendix). Both oral and written statements were analysed in the preparation of this paper.

This paper attempts to summarize the views, concerns and policy recommendations raised by NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC on how science, technology, innovation and culture can be leveraged for sustainable development and achieving

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[5] Resolution 1996/31. Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.
http://www.un.org/documents/ecosoc/res/1996/eres1996-31.htm
[6] NGO Branch website: www.csonet.org

the MDGs. As the 2015 deadline is fast approaching, the majority of NGOs chose to perform a critical analysis of the progress of MDGs, as well as contributing to the debate on the post-2015 development agenda and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were being defined at the time of writing this report.[7] The recommendations presented here will serve as complementary reference to the Ministerial declaration adopted at the end of the High-Level Segment, which provides policy guidance and recommendations for action.

2. Methodology

The research methodology for this paper consisted in the review of all 147 written and 50 requests for oral statements submitted by the NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC (see Appendix). The data provides a comprehensive understanding of the issues and concerns brought forward by the NGOs with regards to science, technology and innovation, as well as culture, in promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs.

The report is based in a mix of quantitative and qualitative approaches that recognise the importance of putting the research into a broader context. The ideas raised by the NGOs were contextualized by consulting other materials supplied by the participating NGOs who attended the High-Level Segment, reports by the Secretary-General, outcome documents from Rio+20, ECOSOC preparatory meetings, statements of Member States and documents issued by other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

2.1. Data Collection

The 147 written statements were collected through the database of the Official Document System (ODS), as each one constitutes an official document of the United Nations, and the 50 requests for oral statements were obtained from the NGO Branch website. Out of the 50 NGOs recommended to speak, 21 made oral presentations

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[7] United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform website: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org

during the High-Level Segment, and these were collected through the United Nations press releases.[8]

The received statements varied greatly in structure, scope, geographical distribution and thematic area of focus, providing a rich and diverse overview of the work of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC from around the world. All statements were first subject to quantitative analysis. As each statement was reviewed, the main points brought up by the individual NGO were extracted and classified. As a result, 7 main thematic areas arose from the collection of statements as a whole:

1) Tackling environment and development as one
2) Intellectual property and technology transfer policies
3) Women and girls' access to STEM education and practice
4) Youth empowerment and the revolution of ICTs
5) Healthcare
6) Agriculture and energy
7) Integrating science with culture and indigenous knowledge

On a continuous basis, each statement was assigned to one or more thematic categories from 1 to 7, in order to understand which themes were recurrent among the statements. This gives value to the paper in terms of statistical evidence and can give a clear picture of which issues, challenges and recommendations were addressed by a significant number of NGOs.

It is important to note that this collection of statements does not represent the entire civil society and these are not all the NGOs that have consultative status with ECOSOC. While all received statements were analyzed and allocated to one or more main thematic categories, only the statements that included substantive content and were structured in a clear and organized manner were included in the qualitative analysis. In order to be considered for further analysis, statements must describe the main issues faced by the NGOs in their work and propose policy recommendations to

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[8] The United Nations Office at Geneva, Press Releases & Meeting Summaries: http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpPages)/CBD301FF98AF69B980256 EE700376D86?OpenDocument&count=10

overcome those obstacles. Following these criteria, a subset of 44 statements was selected for best representing the views of the collection of statements as a whole, and served to illustrate each of the 7 topics arising from the NGOs statements, which are developed in sections 3 and 4.

The results provide the reader with a relevant overview on the main issues and concerns presented by NGOs in ECOSOC Consultative Status, as well as an understanding of the challenges they face on the ground, from highly diverse perspectives. Although in general most NGOs agreed on the ultimate goal of using science, technology and innovation as tools to achieving sustainability for all, there were not always in agreement with each other, and conflicting points of view are presented to illustrate the complexity of the theme. Using science, technology and innovation as a backbone, this paper demonstrates the challenges derived of the interconnectedness among all MDGs, and how they are intrinsically linked with sustainable development.

3. Current situations and challenges

In his opening remarks for the 2013 High-Level Segment, the President of ECOSOC, Mr. Nestor Osorio, highlighted that many fields of human endeavour had made significant improvements in just a few generations, yet there were still over one billion people living in extreme poverty. Science, technology and innovation could significantly influence each of the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – and present huge opportunities for states to create and foster an enabling environment for scientific and technological innovation at the national level, and to use culture to improve lives.[9]

It is worth noting that access to science and its benefits is a human right recognised by Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

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[9] 2013 ECOSOC High-Level Segment Opening Remarks by H.E. Mr. Nestor Osorio. http://papersmartv4.unmeetings.org/media/3597540/mr._nestor_osorio__president__ecosoc.pdf

(ICESCR), [10] but the promotion and application of this right has largely been neglected by governments, the scientific and human rights communities, and society at large.[11]

In the following analysis, NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC applaud the successes and point at the failures of the MDGs in their respective areas of work related to science and technology, providing invaluable insights and recommendations on how science, technology and innovation can be harnessed to successfully transition from the MDGs to the new SDGs in the post-2015 era.

3.1. Earth's life support systems are breaking down

The vast majority of statements presented severe concerns with the fact that, despite decades of global development efforts, planet Earth still hosts 1.2 billion people who live on less than a dollar a day, 1 billion lack access to safe drinking water, 1.5 billion lack access to electricity and 2 billion face food insecurity, according to the *Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS, granted Roster ECOSOC consultative status in 1985).* These problems will be only getting worse with climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution. According to *Save the Children International (SCTI, General, 1993)* "the MDGs failed to recognise linkages between social an environmental determinants: the poor remain the most vulnerable to environmental hazards and lack basic sanitation, hygiene and water, undermining their ability to sustain livelihoods." Most NGOs agreed that overcoming these challenges can no longer be accomplished with the usual approach, as problems cannot be solved using the same tools that caused them. Pursuing a post-2015 development agenda without prioritizing environmental sustainability is certainly going to undermine the agenda's purpose.

In this context, the *International Council for Scientific Unions (ICSU, Special, 1971)* warned: "Scientific evidence shows that humanity has reached a point in history at

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[10] International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1976.
http://shr.aaas.org/article15/Documents/Home%20page_ICESCR.pdf
[11] Chapman and Wyndham, 2013. A Human Right to Science. *Science*, 340 no. 6138 p. 1291.

which the stable functioning of the Earth systems is at risk,[12] and this is a prerequisite for development. Human-induced global environmental change is occurring at a faster rate and intensity, increasing the vulnerability of human societies by causing extreme weather, deteriorating conditions for food production, ecosystem loss, ocean acidification and sea level rise." *Sacro Militare Ordine Costantiniano di San Giorgio (SMOCSG, Special, 2011)* reinforced this point: "The current "business as usual" approach is unsustainable, both for those who have already benefited as well as for those who live in conditions of deprivation." Lastly, the *World Circle of the Consensus: Self-sustaining People, Organizations and Communities (Roster, 2000)* reminded: "We live in a world facing major planetary changes that will impact on climate, natural and complex disasters, food water and energy availability, and trigger socio-economic failures, humanitarian crises and conflict across the globe that will pose threats to development. Maintenance of the status quo is no longer a viable approach."

3.2. Intellectual property and technology transfer regulations disserve the South

Many NGOs were worried about the disconnection between scientific discovery and societal progress, a relationship largely neglected by most governments worldwide. *SMOCSG* reported that because of the nature of scientific research, short-sighted policies that might have worked for other sectors in the past do not favour progress in science, technology and innovation. The situation is much worse for developing and least developed countries (LDCs), as they are excluded from the innovations developed in the North. As *Unnayan Onneshan (UO, Special, 2012)* points out: "LDCs lag far behind from developed countries in scientific knowledge, innovation and technological development, as reflected in share of researchers, publications, patents, royalties and licensing fees. Although allowance of monopoly rents, patents and intellectual property rights are pursued as incentives for private sector to innovate, these serve a little in bringing equalizing effects to the world. The North made numerous promises in international agreements to transfer technologies to developing countries, but these never moved beyond public relations and were not actionable through adequate resources and compliance mechanisms." According to

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[12] Griggs et al., 2013. Sustainable development goals for people and planet. *Nature* 495, 305–307.

Centro di Ricerca e Documentazione Febbraio 74 (CRDF, General, 2002), current intellectual property regulations can favour the occurrence of a "technological drift," that is: "a society's dependence on the science and technology produced elsewhere, without there being the capacity to handle, adapt, modify and develop it and to steer its use. If this occurs, societies must incorporate imitative models of growth and face difficulties in governing themselves within the context of global dynamics."

In the case of Least and Middle Income Countries (LMICs), access to technological advances continues to be a key barrier limiting their contributions to sustainable development. *Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED, Special, 2008)* explained that, in LMICs, research and science are mostly funded from external sources of aid and focus on agriculture and health, because supporting national research and innovation has not been seen as core to development collaboration. As a consequence, as LMIC economies improve and transition to middle-income status, their national science and innovation systems are not ready to become engines of development like in high-income countries.

3.3. Women and girls lack equal access to science and technology and STEM education

For over thirty years, the United Nations General Assembly and ECOSOC have emphasized the inequalities and disparities in educational opportunities open to women and girls, and in women's access to training and employment. NGOs agreed that highlighting gender equality as one of the eight MDGs has helped to underline the gender dimensions of science and technology. Nevertheless, the *International Federation of University Women (IFUW, Special, 1947)* noted the gender imbalance that persists in science, technology and innovation worldwide: "Numbers of women in science, technology and innovation fall as they progress from secondary school to university, professional occupation and higher levels of decision-making. Consistently low levels of women subsist in the skilled technology workforce, with even fewer women in senior management and leading large companies."

According to most NGOs, the unequal participation of women and girls in science and technology is strongly rooted on cultural stereotypes and arise early in childhood.

A UNESCO portrait of the gender gap in science around the globe suggests that success in math and the hard sciences, far from being a matter of gender, is almost entirely dependent on culture.[13] Even in developed countries, where boys and girls are generally provided with equal opportunities for education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics disciplines (STEM), these fields are still dominated by men. The reason is, according to *Training for Women Network (Special, 2012)*, that "the socialization process and stereotypes highly inform choices and behaviours of individuals in relation to education, resulting in a gendered educational system". Many NGOs warned about the global cultural misrepresentation of the scientific endeavour that perpetuates gender inequality in science and technology in both developed and developing countries, and enforces a "leaking pipeline" in STEM careers. *CRDF* said that "the scientific environment is unfriendly for women due to hidden structure of discrimination and persistence of negative stereotypes identifying science and technology with masculinity, and the underrepresentation of women in scientific leadership."

Women's Board Educational Cooperation Society (Special, 2001) highlighted the importance of promoting access of women into STEM fields in terms of economic progress, as there is a link between the social and economic development of a country and the educational level of its female population: "With women accounting for more than 50% of the world population, it is imperative that any country seeking greater science and technology development and relevance would place a great emphasis on the science and technology education of the girl – child."

Assemblea delle Donne per lo Sviluppo e la Lotta Contro L'Esclusione (ASDO, Special, 2008) explained that women's and girl's scientific education fulfills many MDGs besides gender equality: "The promotion of women's and girls' equal participation in science is strictly connected with many apparently separate goals besides obviously supporting gender equality. First, it directly satisfies the right to universal education, of which science and technology are essential parts. Second, contributes to the fight against poverty, as ensuring women's scientific knowledge and

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[13] The Gender Gap in Science. UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012.
http://www.uis.unesco.org/ScienceTechnology/Documents/sti-women-in-science-en.pdf

technological skills is essential for economic growth, and third, the goals of reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating diseases and environmental sustainability would all benefit if women's scientific literacy is improved." NGOs agreed that no single approach is sufficient to achieve women's equal participation in science and technology in developing as well as developed countries. "Stereotyped and male-gendered representations alienate girls and women, while conditioning research priorities, as the experience of gender medicine has demonstrated. Inequality favours brain-drain and waste of resources, reduces the capacity to socially contextualize research activities, increases organizational conflicts and feeds the diffusion of distorted representations of the scientific work," *ASDO* continued.

When it comes to access to education, challenges are clearly higher for women in developing countries, according to *Voice of Change International (VCI, Special, 2012)*. This is attributed to discriminatory barriers, gender gaps and unpaid caring responsibilities. In this context, *Mouvement Mondial des Mères International (MMMI, General, 2004),* pointed out that one of the main reasons why women lag behind in science, technology and innovation activities is the women's and girls' burden of unpaid work: "Unpaid work is a burden and obstacle for women's rights in developing countries: "time poverty" robs women of time to engage in education and income generating activities, perpetuating economic poverty."

Finally, *Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (Special, 1996)* reminded that: "Access of girls and women to participation in science and technology is imperative for achieving gender equality and is an economic necessity leading to full participation of women and girls in social, economic and political development."

3.4. Technology is not a panacea or silver bullet for development

The development of widespread, increasingly affordable access to the Internet and mobile phones is arguably the most critical enabling technology for the transition to sustainability and achievement of the MDGs since the 1992 Earth Summit, said *Information Habitat: Where Information Lives (IHWL, Special, 1995).* The past decade has seen enormous technological advances throughout the developing world, especially in the communications and information sector, with the rise of mobile

technology and Internet access. Several advancements powered by information and communications technology (ICTs) are rapidly changing the face of development, including digital culture, wireless communications and infrastructure, open government and open data, online meeting spaces, disaster warning and response. New technologies now enable data mapping, and new geo-spatial statistical tools enable real-time visualization of how and where resources best meet needs, and open-access data maps enable evidence-based interventions in health, education, justice and women empowerment.

However, the biggest ICT revolution concerns the education sector: "ICTs can provide numerous channels to bring educational options to those historically excluded including people in rural areas without schools, women facing social barriers limiting access to education, students with disabilities or specific vocational training needs," stated *Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo (Special, 2009)*. ICTs have dramatically improved education affordability and access to education for children in remote and disadvantaged areas and communities. With the advent of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS) it seems now feasible to achieve universal primary education. But *AVSI Foundation (General, 1996)* alerts: "Technology is not a panacea or a silver bullet for development, which is a complex phenomenon involving the interplay of multiple factors." There is a gap regarding the use of ICTs between rich and poor countries, urban and rural populations, and men and women, being women in rural areas the most profoundly affected by this digital divide that precludes their access to information and new technologies that could lighten the load of time-consuming routine activities. *AVSI* further explained that technology should not drive education, and ICTs alone (the simple delivery of computers) cannot solve educational problems rooted in poverty and social inequality. Also, technology cannot fully replace teachers and human interaction in the learning process.

3.5. Unequal access to healthcare

Health constitutes a platform on which all the other MDGs build on, as health indicators are a measure of sustainable development across all sectors. *SCTI* denounced that "despite global commitment on the MDGs, 99% of children under 5 die in developing countries from mostly preventable causes. The MDGs do not

consistently confront inequality, in some countries it is even widening, especially in conflict-affected countries, with none expected to achieve a single MDG by 2015."[14] The reason is an insufficient focus on accountability: human rights have been ignored, there is no formal system for non-state actors accountability due to poor data quality, and health actions have focused on specific diseases and population groups, often neglecting rare diseases. None of the three "health MDGs" has been reached: current incentive systems leave millions without access to products to prevent, treat or cure disease. *COHRED* stated that "global health research financing remains poorly coordinated with national research and development agendas such that - for example - after decades of providing vaccines to children in Africa, there is only one World Health Organization (WHO) pre-qualified vaccine producer. This is hardly sustainable development, it remains 'relief'."

Additional concerns were raised by the *Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (Special, 2012),* about the vulnerability of children, noting that there are 7 million people lacking access to HIV treatment and only 25% of young people receive treatment because there is very limited R&D specifically targeting children living with HIV: "The vast majority of vaccine trials have not included paediatric populations, and many formulations of HIV treatments are unpalatable for children and require refrigeration, often unavailable in developing countries."

Many NGOs focused their statements on the potential of science and technology to improve the quality of life of people living with disabilities. The WHO reports that 15% of the world's population are persons with disabilities, 80% of whom live in rural areas.[15] *Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments (Special, 2010)* said that universal design and accessibility of ICTs are integral components of sustainable development, since accessible technologies are equalizing factors for people with disabilities to obtain education, achieve employment and participate in the community. However, "the MDG programmes designed to reduce poverty and increase levels of health, education and employment, inadvertently denied these opportunities to the world's one billion persons living with a disability, especially

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[14] World Development Report 2011, The World Bank. http://www.c-r.org/sites/c-r.org/files/WDR2011.pdf

[15] http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs352/en/

women." The *World Blind Union (WBI, General, 1999)* highlighted a number of innovations such as assistive and mobility devices, low vision aids and digitally accessible information systems with the potential to enhance employability and reduce the economic inequities of disabled persons. However, *WBI* also denounced that 95% of people with visual disabilities in developing countries have no access to technologically advanced aid devices and they don't meet universal design standards, preventing access to education, information, participation and representation in decision-making processes.

3.6. Challenges in agriculture and energy

AVSI warns that water insufficiency, climate change, scarcity of land and rising energy costs are placing a heavy burden on agricultural systems and threatening food security in the developing world. Access to technological advances is a key barrier limiting the contribution of small-medium farmers to sustainable development, resulting in the poor and marginalized consumers being deprived of the advantages offered by technology. "In developed countries, agriculture has enormously benefited from technology, with the advent of improved farming systems with pest-resistant seeds, higher yields and the possibility to adapt to drought with new farming techniques requiring little water, but developing countries are not reaping the benefits of these technological innovations", states the *Center for Africa Development and Progress (Special, 2012)*.

One recurrent topic among many statements was that MDGs cannot be achieved without provision for sustainable and affordable energy to meet the requirements of an expanding world population in the 21st Century. It is becoming clear that true economic growth requires increased energy consumption. According to the *Academy for Future Science (AFS, Special, 2003)*, almost all countries, especially those in Africa, are seeing an annual increase in electricity usage, as confirmed by the report of the Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic Project.[16] Studies show that approximately 20% of the world's population (1.5 billion people) lack modern

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[16] http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRICA/Resources/AICD_exec_summ_9-30-08a.pdf

electricity in their homes; in Africa, this figure is closer to 80%. Most of those without electricity live in rural areas where large-scale electric power systems remain out of reach, but as many as 25 African countries continue to face blackouts from inferior utilities or insufficient energy supplies. Simultaneously, fossil fuels are becoming less affordable. It seems evident that a significant amount of global financial resources will be needed to develop renewable energy technologies, particularly solar energy.

3.7. Cultural resistance to scientific advancement

The last major topic brought forward by NGOs was the need for a global cultural shift towards sustainability. As defined by the *National Council of Child Rights Advocates (NCCRA, Special, 2011)*: "Culture is a group of people's way of life, their behaviours, beliefs, values, and symbols they accept and pass on by communication and imitation from one generation to the next, without thinking about them." Culture plays a key role in the road towards achieving the MDGs: "A nation's cultural heritage is essential to understand a country and its people, helps affirm identity, preserves social cohesion and sustains livelihoods as an economic driver, with the ability to create work and income to improve poverty," said the *American Foundation of Savoy Orders (Roster, 2005)*, citing examples such as sustainable cultural tourism and cultural heritage sites. In addition, the *Women Environmental Programme (WEP, Special, 2005)* brought forward that indigenous knowledge has great potential to generate innovation from both formal enterprises and informal grassroots inventions.

While in most cases culture is a crucial, positive agent to preserve indigenous knowledge and ensure tailored practices to the local environment, it can also pose barriers to the adoption of evidence-based strategies for sustainable development. *Movement for a Better World (Special, 2003)* illustrates this point: "Since culture is based on tradition, it offers security; it's what people rely on for livelihood and relationships. When these aspects are threatened, people will react adversely to whatever is introduced and to what is imposed without their participation."

Science, on the other hand, is an "organized body of knowledge about the behaviour of the natural and physical world based on facts that can be experimented and are

independent of beliefs, values and traditions", as defined by *NCCRA*. The application of new scientific advances is indispensable for solving some of the problems associated with the cultural frameworks of nations. One clear example is how cultural mindsets reinforcing gender inequality have perpetuated human rights violations and exploitative actions against women and girls, sexually, economically, educationally and politically. This demonstrates that the psycho-sociological makeup of a particular society must be taken into account, as culture is one of the main aspects that will determine the acceptance or rejection of scientific and technological innovation. Since not all of the globally adopted strategies for achieving the MDGs are aligned to the same extent with each culture's own values, one must consider the prominent role of culture as either a resistance or a promoter of sustainable development efforts.

4. Policy recommendations: the way forward

4.1. A change of paradigm: environmental sustainability is a prerequisite for development

The human development agenda is under threat if not considered in conjunction with the environment, recognizing interdependencies among food, water, energy, land and climate systems. *ICSU* notes that "integrating poverty reduction, economic, social and planetary environmental goals (the SDGs mandated by Rio+20) can address urgent global problems, and recommends policymakers to embrace the new unified framework, recognizing that new knowledge from scientific research is vital." *ICSU* stressed the importance of establishing new international research initiatives across the natural, social and economic sciences to guide policies and business to address sustainable development challenges. During the delivery of his oral statement at the High-Level Segment, *ICSU* representative Dr. Gisbert Glaser presented the new global initiative "Future Earth", a new 10-year research programme which aims to provide the knowledge necessary to tackle the most urgent challenges of the 21st century related to global sustainability[17]. *WFO* also proposed an integrated framework for the post-2015 agenda built around human rights, gender equality and

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[17] http://www.futureearth.info

sustainability, with its 4 core dimensions: social, environmental, economic, peace and security.

4.2. Improvement of national and international policies and technology transfer regulations

NGOs stated firmly that not only the scientific community must adopt this new paradigm. *ICSU* urged governments to commit to large-scale investments in targeted interdisciplinary research, scientific and technological capacity building (in particular in developing countries), fostering North-South and South-South cooperation and technology sharing, enhancing long-term observing systems, strengthening science-policy links, developing public-private partnerships and providing public and open access to data and information. Supporting this point, *SMOCSG* stated that governments should look beyond borders, short-term interests and commit to a global science and technology partnership, increasing cooperation and knowledge-sharing. *WFO* recognized the importance of strengthening the science-policy interface, encouraging the design of new development pathways that include voices from all stakeholders and encourage creativity and innovation in the pursuit of sustainable growth and development.

Donor agencies should also make the investment in science, technology and innovation for sustainable development a priority. *COHRED* encouraged Member States to increase their own investments in science, technology and innovation for health, with a better coordination with international bodies and bi-lateral cooperation agencies. *TWAS* believes in recognizing, supporting and promoting excellence in scientific research in the developing world, particularly responding to the needs of young scientists in science, technology and innovation-lagging countries.

At the policy level, NGOs identified two opposing models for science and technological advancement: top-down and bottom-up. For example, Asian NGOs celebrated a well-structured institutional framework and a high investment from their governments in scientific education and research. In contrast, African NGOs describe a dramatic increase in grass-roots movements for ICT advancement, as well as the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship, as a response to the lack of initiative

from African governments. *Gazeteciler ve Yazarlar Vakfi (General, 2012)* proposed a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches. First, by empowering citizens through individual entrepreneurship, education of minorities and women, and equal opportunities for economic, social and political participation; second, by enforcing public policies for sustainable development based on political accountability. Most NGOs agreed that effective partnerships must be established among the United Nations system, governments and empowered citizens to achieve sustainable development.

UO called for an international partnership for technology transfer from developed to developing countries. They proposed the establishment of an international body to provide financial, regulatory and legal mechanisms for compliance in technology transfer in favour of the recipients. At the national level, an increase in public investment in science, technology and innovations is essential for its multiplier effects and positive impact in society. For example, *UO* proposed governments to encourage private sector investments in research and development with tax incentives.

4.3. Women must take centre stage in sustainable development

WEP highlighted the dual role women and girls will play in the post-2015 development agenda: women will be both drivers and targets of science, technology and innovation efforts and policies. By placing women at the center of development, multiple areas will benefit simultaneously: food production and agriculture, child and family care, natural resources management, renewable energy, climate change, and education, among others.

To bridge the gender gap in girls' education, *VCI* proposed to strengthen the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)[18] to secondary and tertiary education. Some of their recommendations included: improving affordability of school, providing more scholarships, increasing the number of schools in rural areas, reforming the curriculum oriented to girls and increasing the number women teachers.

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[18] www.ungei.org

Achieving these targets will largely depend on strengthening partnerships between development partners, civil society and women's organizations.

Many NGOs believe that ensuring women's and girls' equal participation in science and technology requires fixing the current distorted representation of the scientific endeavour. *CLCGS* urged Member States to put science, technology and innovation at the service of girls' and womens' dignity and empowerment. *ASDO* proposed to transform research institutions into a welcoming environment for women by promoting culture changes in traditional science and technology behaviours, supporting work-life balance, providing extra support in the delicate early-stage career phase and including a gender dimension in research and innovation practice. All NGOs agreed that it is imperative to promote more women to leadership positions in all areas related to science, including research practice, management, communication and science-society relationships.

During the High-Level Segment, *IFUW's* representative made three key recommendations to address gender imbalance in science and technology: 1) Strengthening educational policies for enrolment of women in science, technology and innovation programmes, 2) Implementing policies that support childcare, equal pay and gender mainstreaming and 3) Involving women scientists in policy making bodies and promote them to greater roles in government politics and legislation.

TWAS urged states to promote activities to build individual and institutional capacity, for example supporting youth and women in science trough collaborations with other organizations and private sector partnerships, such as the L'Oreal – UNESCO "For Women in Science" Laureates and Fellowship Programmes.[19]

MMMI reminded that ICTs are essential tools for women's economic empowerment and represent a huge time saver, reducing their unpaid work burden. ICTs can provide e-services such as online education and practical information on banking, nutrition, and health. In addition, states must put infrastructure development on top of the

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[19]

http://www.loreal.com/Foundation/Article.aspx?topcode=Foundation_AccessibleScience_WomenExcellence_W

agenda in order to reduce women's unpaid work burden, for example by conducting time-use surveys. Including unpaid work in the post-2015 agenda will serve as a good indicator of equality, well-being and development of women and their communities.

4.4. Youth and ICTs: a powerful combination for societal change

As the MDG deadline of 2015 approaches, many NGOs were disappointed that some of the best minds have not been able to implement ideas or programs that effect positive social change. But one group has been successful in helping us all examine the status quo and revolutionizing the way we address these persistent problems: youth.

Youth make up 20% of the world's population and are major stakeholders in a sustainable Earth and inclusive societies, but NGOs agreed in that their potential has not been fully tapped on. Recently, young people have started to revolutionize the world using social media. The Internet has enabled them to share and access knowledge in unexpected ways and scale: it is a decentralized and end-to-end architecture which empowers the edges rather than the centre of the network, facilitating the ability for individuals to share, receive and impact information and ideas across frontiers, ultimately promoting cross-cultural collaboration, tolerance and peace. In this context, *Salesian Missions (SM, Special, 2007)* reminded: "Youth have been instrumental in helping us all examine the status quo and revolutionized the way we address persistent problems. The Arab Spring, Occupy events, flash mobs, mobile applications and creative use of social media empowered large groups of citizens to effect needed changes and allowed young people to express the discontent, frustration and anger of not just their own generation, but of their parents and other adults weighed down by oppressive systems. Social media became more powerful than weapons in mobilizing people". *FAI* added: "Youth emphasizes the role of technology in networking, idea exchange, information, education, business, employability and accountability of governments and policies to ensure good governance, which combined promote innovative solutions to challenges such as conflict resolution, displacement and resettlement." Nevertheless, youth have encountered great resistance to their aspirations of change, *SM* continues: "While applauding the courage and creativeness on the young in effecting social changes, we need to create

an enabling environment to further empower the young to find new solutions to persistent problems. Their willingness to experiment, take risks and think in new and innovative ways may lead us to discover solutions that have long eluded us."

Young people have already started developing innovative technologies to help diagnose disease and analyze climate change. New businesses that have utilized technology created and designed by young people have enhanced all of our lives. The ease with which young people are able to develop new applications for our everyday use, making it easier to accomplish routine activities and explore new ideas needs to be tapped into to further the common good. All NGOs agreed that these developments will assist us as we work to create a more sustainable future.

4.5. Innovations in health and access to clean energy

Most NGOs agreed that in the new post-2015 agenda health should be made a priority. In this line, *STCI* proposed a new framework of goals to deliver health outcomes: 1) Ending preventable child and maternal mortality by establishing universal health coverage with a strong public-led health system (quoting the recent United Nations General Assembly resolution and Right to Health report). 2) Improving health worker ratios and tracking investment in health. 3) Establishing legal frameworks to address inequities, as the poor and less educated from rural areas remain without healthcare. 4) Promoting multi-sectorial partnerships to ensure access to medicines, coordinate R+D agendas to respond to the needs of the poor and the use of better indicators to track national progress (using big data and ICTs).

Innovations in the clean and renewable energies sector were regarded by many NGOs as the most crucial for empowering communities in critical health issues, allowing doctors to treat patients at night, keeping life-saving medicines and vaccines refrigerated, and securing access to clean water by water pumps. Most NGOs agreed that the most promising environmentally-friendly technology for the developing world are solar-powered facilities. They can generate enough income to self-fund maintenance, and the possibility of remote disease monitoring and diagnostics is cost-effective. In this context, *MMMI* stressed the importance of access to clean water and sanitation, and proposed a number of strategies to improve low-cost water

technologies: wind or solar powered electric pumps, desalination plants, wastewater reuse and household purification systems, which will provide sanitation measures to prevent waterborne diseases from water pollution, which are essential for reducing child mortality."

Finally, *WBU* reminded that innovative technologies must not forget people living with disabilities, by manufacturing visual aid products and delivering services that are accessible, affordable and comply with universal design standards. This includes the Internet, with all websites of state actors, private entities and civil society agencies in compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

4.6. Sustainable agriculture

OCAPROCE stressed that, in the case of Africa, the entire state machinery needs restructuration, focusing on market liberalization and environmentally-friendly agriculture. In their oral statement during the High-Level Segment, *OCAPROCE* reminded that any approach at raising incomes through agriculture for poverty alleviation should take particular attention to its sustainability. *OCAPROCE* recommended governments to offer training programs to help educate farmers, especially rural farmers in order to keep pace with the technological know-how of changing times. Gender wise, policies aimed at promoting women's access and ownership to land should be formulated and enforced.

AFS has established large and small scale biomass facilities to generate power for cooking and other household uses: "Biomass technologies can enhance soil quality, helping to create a wide variety of agricultural products which can generate income for the local community. Renewable energy technologies are also effective in producing clean water, essential in combating disease and reducing child mortality." All NGOs unanimously agreed that reducing the current dependency on fossil fuels by adopting renewable energy technologies will be instrumental reducing CO_2 emissions to fight climate change.

4.7 Towards a scientific culture for sustainability

Many NGOs coincided in that some of the most effective strategies for addressing poverty have been successful because they included the people living in poverty themselves. They shared their knowledge and experience about which strategies worked best and assisted policy makers in coming to new understandings about the reality of poverty, proposing new ways to overcome it. Thus, in the post-2015 agenda, it will be essential to continue to make impoverished communities actors responsible of their own sustainable development. How this can be achieved? The answer might be found in the cultural aspect of sustainability.

UCLG described culture as the 4th pillar of sustainable development. *MBW* reminded that "the psychological and sociological makeup of a group in a given culture must be taken into account when implementing scientific and technological innovations strategies, or else the effort is doomed to fail." On the contrary, many NGOs agreed that if the community approves and accepts the innovation it will foster its growth and multiplication. In order to achieve this goal, *Legiao de Boa Vontade (General, 1999)* believes that producing and disseminating socio-environmental technologies also involves the valuing and preservation of cultures and knowledge accumulated over thousands of years by both traditional and scientific communities.

In this context, *SM* further explained: "Culture must be fully integrated in human-centred approaches to development. Any change process requiring the acceptance and adoption by a particular human group must be examined by the group, which has been previously informed and exposed to its advantages and disadvantages. When people are active participants of the proposed change, in other words, they "own it", the particular culture will then be in a position to adopt the innovation, and promote its growth and multiplication over time." *AVSI* warned about the risks of applying technological innovations without the human factor: "Lively civil society groups and organizations are expressions of an individual and group's development priorities and opportunities to be pursued at the family, work and community levels." *AVSI* explained that this risk can be seen in certain applications of mobile technologies to health care problems in Sub-Saharan Africa: "While incredibly useful and cost-efficient, the trend towards a distancing of the patient-doctor relationship could bring challenges and consequences of its own. Our recent work has focused on the role of community health workers as agents who are capable of utilizing technology and in

the same time to effectively, personally reach and serve the most marginalized communities, underlining the importance of the availability of an appropriate agent to carry the technology to the last mile."

A cultural resistance to scientific and technological innovations might be explained by the lack of integration of science in the every day lives of society. Today, there is a rising importance of actors (public, private and non-profit) external to the scientific "establishment", but who have an increasing role in orienting the research and its products. "Scientific communication and strengthening the public understanding of science should be leveraged as a cultural instrument, not only to inform or dialogue, but also to build a higher responsibility on scientific research among the different actors. Society needs to acquire scientific knowledge and attitudes for developing their cultural heritage since science and society are intrinsically related," stated *CDRF*. Nevertheless, many NGOs believe it is important to provide scientific explanations to certain superstitious or supernatural beliefs that negatively influence effective teaching and learning of science.

5. Conclusions

"Our loyalties are to the species and the planet. We speak for Earth."

- Carl Sagan.

In his Report of the Secretary-General for the 2013 Annual Ministerial Review, Ban Ki-Moon declared: "Although a wealth of scientific information is available on sustainability challenges, this information often does not reach policymakers and other stakeholders in formats that are easy to understand or implement. The development of successful science, technology and innovation policies and strategies for sustainable development requires a continuous dialogue between scientists, policymakers and society". The Secretary-General has taken steps to bridge this gap by appointing a new Scientific Advisory Board "in an effort to influence and shape orientations at the multilateral level to advance sustainable development and poverty eradication worldwide, as well as strengthen the interface between science, policy and

society."[20]. The announcement was made on 24 September 2013, during the inaugural meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Still, the United Nations needs to listen and include civil society in the post-2015 discussion on sustainable development. As stated by several NGOs, today's scientific and technological progress is still genderised and westernised. The challenges faced by humanity are global in scope but at the same time are local in the ways they materialise. NGOs stressed the importance of incorporating excluded groups – especially women and girls, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples – into the innovation process, to broaden the range of contributors setting priorities and enhancing the potential for success. These approaches, which in their most inclusive forms represent knowledge co-creation between scientific and local knowledge-holders, have proven to be powerful means of generating solutions to many problems.

This paper demonstrates the will of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC to bridge the gap between all stakeholders and partner for a new paradigm in sustainable development. Their knowledge of the day-to-day challenges "on the ground" is invaluable, thus the United Nations must recognise and strengthen its commitment to work with NGOs and include the full scope of diverse and plural voices raised by civil society. NGOs are ready to bring about new approaches to development that are sensitive to human diversity, in order to create a true "culture of sustainability".

NGOs agreed that the post-2015 framework should be globally agreed, mutually owned and locally relevant, based on human rights, transparent, multi-stakeholder and evidence-based, investing in civil society's capacity to engage in accountability processes. *CRDF* concludes: "A global partnership is imperative among governments, non-governmental organizations, innovative entrepreneurs and research scientists to bring the technological innovations closer to the people, insisting in the societal dimension of science, convinced that science must be able to speak to everybody, listen to everybody, answer the needs of any society, to become the endowment of all components of the human community."

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[20] https://en.unesco.org//themes/science-sustainable-future/scientific-advisory-board-united-nations-secretary-general

6. Appendix

6.1. NGOs recommended to deliver oral statements at the 2013 ECOSOC High-Level Segment

Organization	Type of Status	Year of Status
Academic Council on the United Nations System	General	1996
Action Sensibilisation sur les Nouvelles Technologies de L'Information et de la Communication	Special	2011
African Citizens Development Foundation	Special	2009
Assemblea delle Donne per lo Sviluppo e la Lotta Contro L'Esclusione (ASDO)	Special	2008
Association des Etats Generaux des Etudiants de l'Europe	Special	1998
Association des Jeunes pour l'Agriculture du Mali	Special	2012
Association Mauritanienne pour la promotion du droit	Special	2011
Association Points-Coeur	Special	2005
Center for Africa Development and Progress	Special	2012
Center for Practice-Oriented Feminist Science (PROFS)	Special	2001
Centro di Ricerca e Documentazione Febbraio 74	General	2002
Child Helpline International	Special	2011
CIBJO - The World Jewellery Confederation	Special	2006
CIFA Convention of Independent Financial Advisors	Special	2007
Confédération Européenne des Cadres CEC	Special	2012
Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO)	General	2002
Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement - Bwaise Facility	Special	2011
Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo	Special	2004
Gazeteciler ve Yazarlar Vakfi	General	2012
HYDROAID Water for Development Institute	Special	2011
Innovation: Africa	Special	2012
Institute of International Social Development	Special	2000
International Committee for Arab-Israeli Reconciliation	Special	2006
International Council of Scientific Unions	Special	1971
International Federation for Family Development	General	2011
International Federation for Home Economics	Special	1981
International Federation of University Women	Special	1947
International Human Rights & Anti-Corruption Society	Special	2012
International Ontopsychology Association	Special	1999
Internet Society	Special	2010
Legiao da Boa Vontade - Legion of Good Will	General	1999
Major Alliance Education Centre (MAEC)	Special	2012
Manavata	Special	2012
National Council of Child Rights Advocates, Nigeria: South West Zone	Special	2011
New Future Foundation, Inc.	Special	2008
Objectif Sciences International	Special	2011
Observatorio Mexicano de la Crisis, Asociación Civil	Special	2012
ONG Hope International	General	2011
Organisation Mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale	Special	2005
Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale	Special	2008
Osservatorio per la Comunicazione Culturale e l'Audiovisivo nel Mediterraneo e nel Mondo	Special	2005

Organization	Type of Status	Year of Status
Save the Children International	General	1993
Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre	Special	2011
Society for Human advancement and Disadvantaged Empowerment (SHADE)	Special	2011
Sudanese Women General Union	Special	2007
Unión de Asociaciones Familiares	Special	2005
United Cities and Local Governments	General	1947
Unnayan Onneshan	Special	2012
Virtue Foundation	Special	2005
Women's Health and Education Center	Special	2008

6.2. Written Statements submitted to ECOSOC 2013

Organization	Type of Status	Year of Status	UN Document Symbol[21]
Abiodun Adebayo Welfare Foundation	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/3
Academy for Future Science	Special	2003	E/2013/NGO/4
Action Sensibilisation sur les Nouvelles Technologies de L'Information et de la Communication	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/92
African Citizens Development Foundation	Special	2009	E/2013/NGO/5
African Women's Association	Special	2005	E/2013/NGO/25
Agence de Developpement Economique et Culturel Nord-Sud	Special	2008	E/2013/NGO/93
All India Movement for Seva	Special	2005	E/2013/NGO/6
American Foundation of Savoy Orders	Roster	2005	E/2013/NGO/7
American Youth Understanding Diabetes Abroad, Inc / AYUDA, Inc.)	Special	2007	E/2013/NGO/26
Ankara Foundation of Children with Leukemia	Special	2007	E/2013/NGO/8
Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/144
Assemblea delle Donne per lo Sviluppo e la Lotta Contro L'Esclusione (ASDO)	Special	2008	E/2013/NGO/9
Association Burkinabé pour la Survie de l'Enfance	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/94
Association des Jeunes pour l'Agriculture du Mali	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/98
Association for Social and Environmental Development	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/10
Association Mauritanienne pour la promotion du droit	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/95
Association Mondiale de Psychanalyse du Champ Freudien AMP	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/96
Association of African Entrepreneurs	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/11
Association Points-Coeur	Special	2005	E/2013/NGO/97
Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/99
Australian Association of Yoga in Daily Life	Roster	2004	E/2013/NGO/145
AVSI Foundation	General	1996	E/2013/NGO/2
Cause Première	Special	2010	E/2013/NGO/12
Center for Africa Development and Progress	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/13
Centre Africain de Recherche Industrielle (CARI)	Special	2001	E/2013/NGO/100
Centre de Formation aux Techniques Informatiques	Special	2009	E/2013/NGO/101
Centro di Ricerca e Documentazione Febbraio 74	General	2002	E/2013/NGO/14
Child Care Consortium	Special	2006	E/2013/NGO/15
Children of the World - Regional Public Charitable Fund of Assistance to Cultural and Sports Development of Children and Young People, The	Special	2007	E/2013/NGO/1
Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/16
Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul	Special	2007	E/2013/NGO/17
Concile Mondial de Congres Diplomatiques des Aumoniers pour la Paix Universelle des Droits Humains et Juridiques	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/102
Confédération Européenne des Cadres CEC	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/18
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd	Special	1996	E/2013/NGO/19
Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations	Special	1947	E/2013/NGO/20
Consumers International	General	1977	E/2013/NGO/21
Coordination Francaise du Lobby Europeen des Femmes	Special	2000	E/2013/NGO/103
Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences	Roster		E/2013/NGO/22
Council on Health Research for Development	Special	2008	E/2013/NGO/23
Earth Child Institute, Inc.	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/24
Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/27

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[21] Each written statement can be found on the UN Official Document System (ODS) website in each of the six official languages: http://www.un.org/en/documents/ods

Organization	Type of Status	Year of Status	UN Document Symbol[21]
Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs	Special	2006	E/2013/NGO/32
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/33
Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement - Bwaise Facility	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/34
Federacion Internacional de Asociaciones de Ayuda Social Ecologica y Cultural FIADASEC / International Federation of Associations for Social, Ecological and Cultural Help	Special	2007	E/2013/NGO/35
Federation Europeenne des Centres de Recherche et d'Information sur le Sectarisme (FECRIS)	Special	2009	E/2013/NGO/28
Fondation Genereuse Developpement	Special	2010	E/2013/NGO/104
Fondation Ostad Elahi - Ethique et Solidarite Humaine	Special	2008	E/2013/NGO/105
Forum of Culture and Arts of Uzbekistan	Special	2010	E/2013/NGO/36
Friends of Africa International, Inc.	Special	2009	E/2013/NGO/37
Fundacion Eudes	Special	2010	E/2013/NGO/115
Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo	Special	2004	E/2013/NGO/38
Fundación Proacceso ECO, Asociación Civil	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/39
Gazeteciler ve Yazarlar Vakfi	General	2012	E/2013/NGO/40
Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments	Special	2010	E/2013/NGO/41
Human Rights Association for Community Development in Assiut	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/43
HYDROAID Water for Development Institute	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/42
Ibero American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation	Special	1976	E/2013/NGO/45
Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society	Special	2010	E/2013/NGO/46
Indian Development Foundation	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/47
Information Habitat: Where Information Lives (IHWIL)	Special	1995	E/2013/NGO/48
Ingenieurs du Monde	Special	2006	E/2013/NGO/49
Innovation: Africa	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/50
Institute for Planetary Synthesis	Roster	1998	E/2013/NGO/136
Institute of International Social Development	Special	2000	E/2013/NGO/116
International Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility	Special	1993	E/2013/NGO/123
International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences	Roster		E/2013/NGO/51
International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children	Special	2008	E/2013/NGO/30
International Commission on Occupational Health	Roster		E/2013/NGO/52
International Council of Scientific Unions	Special	1971	E/2013/NGO/31
International Ecological Safety Cooperative Organization	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/117
International Federation for Family Development	General	2011	E/2013/NGO/124
International Federation for Home Economics	Special	1981	E/2013/NGO/132
International Federation of University Women	Special	1947	E/2013/NGO/53
International Ocean Institute	Special	2007	E/2013/NGO/118
International Ontopsychology Association	Special	1999	E/2013/NGO/54
International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Special	2000	E/2013/NGO/55
International Public Policy Institute	Roster	1984	E/2013/NGO/56
International Risk Governance Council (IRGC)	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/57
International Shinto Foundation (ISF)	Special	2001	E/2013/NGO/58
Internet Society	Special	2010	E/2013/NGO/59
Interregional Union of Life Help for Mentally Handicapped Persons "Sail of Hope"	Special	2002	E/2013/NGO/119
IRESC International Radio Emergency Support Coalition	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/44
IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association	Special	2004	E/2013/NGO/29
Jeunesse Horizon	Special	2004	E/2013/NGO/114

Organization	Type of Status	Year of Status	UN Document Symbol[21]
Korea Institute of Brain Science (KIBS)	Roster	2007	E/2013/NGO/129
Krityanand UNESCO Club Jamshedpur	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/60
Legiao da Boa Vontade - Legion of Good Will	General	1999	E/2013/NGO/61
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.	Special	1998	E/2013/NGO/62
Mouvement Mondial des Mères International	General	2004	E/2013/NGO/63
Movement for a Better World	Special	2003	E/2013/NGO/64
Mundo Sin Guerras	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/125
National Council of Child Rights Advocates, Nigeria: South West Zone	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/66
NCCI (NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq)	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/65
New Future Foundation, Inc.	Special	2008	E/2013/NGO/67
Ngoma Club	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/106
Nigeria-Togo Association	Special	2008	E/2013/NGO/107
Objectif Sciences International	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/68
OceanCare	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/133
ONG Hope International	General	2011	E/2013/NGO/108
Organisation Mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale	Special	2005	E/2013/NGO/109
Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale	Special	2008	E/2013/NGO/69
Osservatorio per la Comunicazione Culturale e l'Audiovisivo nel Mediterraneo e nel Mondo	Special	2005	E/2013/NGO/70
Pacific Rim Institute for Development & Education	Special	1999	E/2013/NGO/120
Peace Operation Training Institute Inc.	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/135
Peace Worldwide	Special	2005	E/2013/NGO/71
Pos Keadilan Peduli Ummat	Special	2008	E/2013/NGO/72
Quaker Earthcare Witness	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/73
RESO-Femmes	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/110
Sacro Militare Ordine Costantiniano di San Giorgio	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/74
Salesian Missions, Inc.	Special	2007	E/2013/NGO/137
Save the Children International	General	1993	E/2013/NGO/75
Saviya Development Foundation	Special	1998	E/2013/NGO/76
Self-Help Development Facilitators	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/77
Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/78
Social Initiatives Support Fund	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/79
Society for Upliftment of Masses, The	Special	1999	E/2013/NGO/121
Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries	Special	2000	E/2013/NGO/130
Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer (MAHAK)	Special	2001	E/2013/NGO/126
Somali Women Civil War Survivors	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/134
Sri Swami Madhavananda World Peace Council	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/127
Stichting Spanda	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/122
Synergie Developpement et Partenariat International (SYDEPI - SYFODIP)	Special	2009	E/2013/NGO/111
The Institute for Conscious Global Change, Inc.	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/80
Third Word Academy of Science	Roster		E/2013/NGO/146
Third World Network	Roster		E/2013/NGO/128
Tour Opération et Initiatives	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/112
Training for Women Network	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/81
Umid Support to social development public union	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/82
Union for International Cancer Control	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/131
Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs	Special	2003	E/2013/NGO/91

Organization	Type of Status	Year of Status	UN Document Symbol[21]
United Cities and Local Governments	General	1947	E/2013/NGO/83
Univers de Solidarité et de Développement	Special	2011	E/2013/NGO/113
Unnayan Onneshan	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/84
Virtue Foundation	Special	2005	E/2013/NGO/85
Voice of Change International	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/86
Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo	Special	2009	E/2013/NGO/87
Women Environmental Programme	Special	2005	E/2013/NGO/88
Women's Board Educational Cooperation Society	Special	2001	E/2013/NGO/89
WOOMB International Ltd	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/147
World Blind Union	General	1999	E/2013/NGO/90
World Circle of the Consensus:Self-sustaining People, Orgnizations and Communities (SPOC)	Roster	2000	E/2013/NGO/138
World Family Organization	General	1948	E/2013/NGO/139
World for World Organization	Special	2006	E/2013/NGO/140
World Society for the Protection of Animals	Special	1971	E/2013/NGO/143
World Society of Victimology	Special	1987	E/2013/NGO/141
Yakutia - Our Opinion	Special	2012	E/2013/NGO/142