The UNITED NATIONS at 70: A Celebration

By Cathy Daugherty

With balloons flying and participants wearing UN blue, NGO representatives, including four from DKG, gathered on October 22nd to launch the first of several birthday events in honor of the UN’s 70 years. The two panels prepared for this initial celebration focused on the relationship between the UN and NGOs/civil society by looking back and looking forward.

The first panel, composed of NGO representatives from three groups whose advocacy for worldwide peace predated the existence of a United Nation’s charter, spoke to long-standing ties to the UN. Representatives from the Lions Clubs International, Rotary International, and the League of Women Voters (LWV) each outlined their organization’s UN relationship and how they maintain that strong bond today. From the Lion’s work with eye care for children to Rotary’s ongoing goal to eradicate polio to the LWV’s message of gender equality, these three groups painted a picture of possibilities being realized through the efforts of their members. ‘Remarkable’ was the word that best summed up the past and current efforts of these three NGOs.

Speaking to the future of the UN and NGO/civil society relationship were representatives from three youth generations: World Federation for Ukrainian Women’s Organizations, Call of Culture and International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges, Caring for Cambodia.

Each speaker addressed how youth will help the UN attain the recently adopted Sustainable Global Goals by 2030. First and foremost they addressed the need for all generations to
understand and tap the power of youth. This power is more than being able to use social media. Youth understand the inter-connectedness of the world and desire to contribute to the future. While they may seem passive to reform, in reality they feel detached from the process. These three youth representatives urged older generations to consult them, to let them be part of the planning stages, and most importantly to trust them. What they want from older generations is access to grow and the opportunity to move the UN forward during the next 70 years. They view themselves as partners with the strength to push the goals of the UN toward realization.

Following a lively Q & A discussion the event ended with a slide show featuring key moments in UN/NGO groups over the last 70 years. DKG’s contribution noted the presentation of a check at the 2012 DKG International Convention in New York City representing total contributions to July 2012 to the Schools for Africa Program, UNICEF/US Fund.
enable the workers “on the ground” to share what they felt still needed to be accomplished. Several of your Delta Kappa Gamma NGO representatives attended and participated in this process.

Also, the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda was established by the UN to determine which of the MDGs would be continued and to suggest future goals. A continued focus is on the most marginalized people - those living in extreme poverty, with disabilities, in indigenous communities, unemployed, and women and children living with violence. New goals include economic considerations, including responsible production and consumption, free and fair trade and job security. Environmental factors including climate change will be expanded. A new transparency, accountability and financial stability will promote good governance. Eventually, violence, conflict and war will be eradicated by collaboration among peoples and nations leading to a world of peace.

The MDGs were implemented by the UN, governments and civil society including NGOs working around the globe. The SDGs will now require the commitment of a new global partnership based on cooperation, solidarity and mutual accountability. This partnership will include the UN, world leaders, nations, states, communities, civil society, business, scientists and academia, philanthropists and the private sector including all ordinary citizens everywhere.

The one hundred and sixty nine targets listed under the goals are expressed in measurable terms to be monitored and evaluated and will be achieved only when all income and social groups have met the target. With the current data revolution, we can improve the quality of feedback to citizens and progress monitoring. No one should be left behind!

Each citizen of the world must make these goals a part of their daily lives! Teachers must educate their students about these global goals and live them in the classroom! Governments from villages to nations must integrate them into their plans. The voices of developing countries must be heard and be equal partners. The SDGs are by everyone for everyone! Together we can all create a world on our sustainable planet, where each person’s human rights, needs, dignity and security are guaranteed.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

These colorful icons for each goal have been designed and you are encouraged to use them as you develop plans for taking action. For information on what you can do, go to www.globalgiving.org/SDG or simply google UN Sustainable Development Goals to read more.

Some References to investigate

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
The final and complete Outcome Document of the Summit for Adoption of the Post 2015 Development Goals(includes the SDG goals and targets)
Resources for Children and Introducing the SDGs

1. Introductory video to SDGs by UNICEF for elementary children
   Animated Video: The Road to the SDGs: A Discussion with Students
   Subtitles available in all 6 UN languages:
   ARABIC | CHINESE | ENGLISH | FRENCH | RUSSIAN | SPANISH

2. The World We Want: A Guide to the Goals for Children and Young People
   Excellent SDG information, children’s stories and activities
   Children-friendly SDGs booklet

3. A fun comic for later elementary which includes introductory information
   Comics UN: Heroes for Change booklet

4. A web site for children where they can access and share interesting articles, videos,
   And other social media and ask questions
   The World Children Want webspace

5. UN site which includes videos, photos and SDG information

CTAUN Conference Friday 22 January 2016
at United Nations Headquarters in New York City

Stewardship for a Sustainable World: Education in the SDGs

Go to www.teachun.org for details and registration

YOUR UN REPRESENTATIVES

The members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International listed below are your official representatives at the
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