

UN2020 Information, Organization and Strategy Meeting Responding to Multilateralism in Crisis

When: Monday, 15 October, 2018, 9.30-17.30h

Where: Church Center, 2nd Floor, 777 United Nations Plaza, 44th Street & 1st Avenue

Hosted by: World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy, The Stimson Center, CIVICUS, The Workable World Trust, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung New York, United Nations Association-UK

Meeting objectives

Multilateralism and the rule-based international order, with the United Nations at its center, are being undermined from different sides. For UN member states, the upcoming 75th anniversary of the UN in 2020 is an opportunity to recommit to the aims and purposes of the UN Charter.

For civil society, the 75th anniversary provides the opportunity to scrutinize the commitments made by member states to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement with the promise of sustainability, equality, inclusion and accountability. However to turn such pledges into a more 'people-centered multilateralism' will require renewed momentum, both inside and outside the UN.

During the last two years, the civil society initiative UN2020 has secured strong cross-regional support from UN member states and government groupings that recognize the joint interest in a strengthened and reinvigorated UN system. With an effective **UN process** of stocktaking and review, **the 75th anniversary could become the much needed opportunity leading to renewal, innovation, and reform of the United Nations system after 2020.**

UN2020 aims to provide a platform to promote cooperation and dialogue among civil society groups and campaigns in support of a people-centered multilateralism.

Together, worldwide actions will be needed to:

- Develop strategies and proposals for global governance renewal, innovation, and reform;
- Develop communication, outreach, coalition-building, and advocacy strategies for UN2020 objectives;
- Harness synergies with the high-level reviews of the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda, as well as other intergovernmental reviews in 2020, to increase momentum for transformational change of the UN system;
- Promote recommitment to the aims and purposes of the UN Charter;
- Identify tangible outputs required plus deadlines and coalition focal points for each output.

Agenda

Time	Agenda item
9.30 - 9.45	Welcome - Bettina Luise Rürup, Executive Director, FES New York
9.45 - 10.45	Reflections and lessons learned from past UN reform initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50th UN Anniversary (1995) - William Pace, WFM-IGP • 2003-2005 (HLPF, In Larger Freedom) - Richard Ponzio, Stimson Center • 2012-2015 (Post 2015 & OWG SDGs) - David O'Connor, WRI/ICUN (tbc) • SG's 3 reform tracks - Ana Marie Lebada, IISD (tbc) • Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the UN - Fergus Watt, UN 2020
11.15 - 11.30	Short break
11.30 - 12.45	Roundtable Discussion: Transforming the UN in the 21st Century - Global Campaigns & Regional Perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PyeongChang Appeal for Peace Initiative - Anselmo Lee, ADA • HLPF Major Groups & Other Stakeholders - Emilia Reyes, Equidad de Género • Feminist Movement Engagement - Yiping Cai, DAWN • Feminist Movement Engagement - Shaima Aly, Kenana Association for Sustainable Development and Women Empowerment, Cairo (tbc.) • African Agenda 2063 - Stephen Chacha, African Philanthropic Foundation • Global Challenges Foundation Getting from Here to There Working Group - Natalie Samarasinghe, UNA-UK and Fredrik Karlsson, Global Challenges Foundation
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch Discussion with H.E. Vladmir Drobnjak (Croatia): Prospects for a 75th UN Anniversary Leaders Summit <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taking stock: the state of the UN System 2. Strengthening Multilateralism: Renewal, Innovation, Reform 3. Planned UN Agenda in 2020 (SDGs, Paris Agreement & Beijing+25) 4. Progress Update on the SG's UN Reform Packages

14.00 - 15.30	Strategies & Tactics: Making 2020 Count <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN & Global Governance - Keith Porter, Stanley Foundation • Synergies & Opportunities with 2030 Agenda & Paris Agreement - Barbara Adams, Global Policy Forum • Campaigning & Mobilization - Avaaz (tbc) • Options for engaging UN & Member States - Ben Donaldson, UNA-UK
15.30 - 15.45	Short break
15.45 - 17.00	On the road to UN 2020 Summit and Beyond: Strategies/Tactics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short, Medium, Long-Term Strategy for Reform (2018-2030), including vehicles for initiating an official intergovernmental process • Stocktaking, Review & Innovation (intergovernmental mandate) • Mobilize Diverse Constituencies • Identify 2020 Summit Themes, Modalities and Outcomes
17.00 - 17:30	Wrap Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions, risks, concerns • Next steps • Recap and way forward - Orsolya Bartha, Senior Advisor, International Disability Alliance

Background & context

The year 2020 will mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. As this milestone approaches, there is a widely shared sense that the sustainability of a rules-based international order cannot be taken for granted, that multilateralism is under threat. It will also be the occasion for several multi-year reviews of major treaties and processes, and a time to take stock of the UN's role in the world.

At the recently concluded High-Level Debate of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, government leaders and other stakeholders repeatedly underscored the critical need for robust UN reform measures if the threats to multilateralism are to be averted. With the increasing concentration of wealth and power driving inequality, civil society advocates stressed the need for global governance economic reform that only a people-centered multilateralism can provide. Moreover, it was recognized that the next two years provide a important opportunity for advancing implementation of the historic 2015 agreements of the

SDGs and Paris Agreement, both of which will be reviewed in 2020. Following the two sessions of the HLPF and the Climate Summit in 2019, support is growing for using the occasion of the UN's 75th anniversary to develop potential synergies among these high-level reviews, and to further develop progressive improvements to global institutions and policy, through a Summit dedicated for this purpose.

Since January 2017, the UN2020 Initiative has facilitated discussions with many member states, secretariat officials and other UN stakeholders on the need for a successful, adequately prepared 75th anniversary commemoration for the UN in 2020, one that includes a meaningful process of stocktaking, review and strengthening for the organization. While governments have not yet agreed on a timeline to prepare for the 75th anniversary, the idea of a dedicated process leading to a 2020 Summit has found a great deal of support among member states. Moreover, on August 22-23 2018, over 1,000 participants at the 2018 UN DPI/NGO Conference supported an outcome document that included a recommendation that calls upon governments to, "Advance people-centered multilateralism by developing proposals to revitalize the United Nations on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary in 2020."

With growing questions regarding the role of multilateralism in a changing geopolitical environment, there is little question that the 75th anniversary offers a much-needed opportunity for system-wide stocktaking and review to strengthen the UN. Now is the time for global civil society to mobilize the necessary public support to demand that governments do so.

For further information, contact Fergus Watt (ferguswatt6@gmail.com) or Jeffery Huffines (jeffery.huffines@civicus.org).

Background Material

UN2020 Strategy Meeting Informational handout, [here](#)

UN2020 Concept Note, [here](#)

UN2020 Summary Report (21 June 2018), [here](#)

UN2020 web site, [here](#)

'*Mobilising for a people-centred United Nations*', Fergus Watt, 2018 Reimagining Democracy (CIVICUS), [here](#)

'*Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*', Joseph E Schwartzberg, United Nations University Press, 2013.

'*People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action "We the Peoples... Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems"*', 67th United Nations DPI NGO Conference, 22-23 August 2018, [here](#)