

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

Read by
Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska, Coordinator of the Commons Cluster.

The Commons Cluster is a Network of UN ECOSOC accredited NGOs and others who are dedicated to supporting UN Member States in finding ways of developing a sustainable world that serves the well being of all people and nature.

Thank you, Mr. Coehair,

Since Doha, there have been two critical shifts:

1. People and Governments are partners in building sustainability; and
2. The sharing economy, where products and services are largely offered for free, has radically changed how development is being financed..

Here are three ways of using these shifts to access new sources of financing and maximizing these:

1. By empowering the sharing economy. The sharing economy focuses on providing access to resources rather than wielding power over these. The 90 democratically elected former Heads of State and Government who form the Club of Madrid, suggested 10 commitments governments could make to become what they termed shared societies. These are enumerated in the longer version of this statement, submitted to the Secretariat.
2. By providing universal access to the Internet. The sharing economy exists wherever we look. But on the Internet alone there is the equivalent of USD 1.3 trillion in Intellectual Property for free, including all forms of technology for sustainable development. Access empowers all to develop those aspects most needed and thus build sustainable communities leaving no one behind.
3. By enabling public private partnerships with cooperatives business arm of the sharing economy with their combined revenues of USD 3 trillion annually. Their Cooperative Identity is based on sharing both with their one billion members worldwide and with the communities from local to global levels in which each is situated. Societies worldwide will benefit the more cooperatives are given a level playing field, as follows:
 - ï no limits to cooperative activity;
 - ï indivisible reserves should not be considered as income by the tax system, as it is not possible to make any kind of individual appropriation;
 - ï accounting standards should recognize cooperative members' shares as equity and not liability even if the members have an unconditional right of withdrawal; and
 - ï they should not be made to carry more administrative burdens and costs than other types of companies (e.g. capital requirements, auditing)

Thank you, Mr. CoChair.
(Word count 332)

Further information on above points

1. 10 Commitments of the Club of Madrid.
2. More information on the Sharing (Social and Solidarity) Economy

Here are the 10 Commitments suggested by the Club of Madrid with comments by the UN NGO MG Commons Cluster

Commitment 1 Locate responsibility to ensure the promotion of social cohesion clearly within government structures

Comment This means cohesion between all facets of government, including with governments' representatives in their UN Missions, for these are in the best position to foster strong bonds with relevant global facets of Shared Society. There must also be feedback loops between representatives of Shared Society and relevant government structures for only then can governments tap into this huge resource.

Commitment II. Create opportunities for minorities and marginalized groups and communities to be consulted about their needs and their perception of the responsiveness of state and community structures to meet those needs.

Comment The United Nations has made a remarkable start in involving these in global consultations (be it via email, NGOs in the field, UNDP or other UN agencies.); and summarizing the input received. If this process is to flourish and no one is to be left behind then it is critical that Governments both read the input received from the grassroots and respond in such a way that their citizens know they are being heard. Otherwise inevitable apathy and resentment will build against Governments and the UN and the latter will have lost contact with the very section of society they must reach for their poverty alleviation efforts.

Commitment III. Ensure that social cohesion is considered in devising governance structures, policy formulation and policy implementation and establish procedures and mechanisms to ensure this is achieved and to resolve divergent positions between sectional interests.

Commitment IV. Ensure that the legal framework protects the rights of the individual and prohibits discrimination based on ethnic, religious, gender, or cultural difference.

Comments on III and IV Important tools include (1) A full human rights approach to empower all individually and in their community relations. This will go to a root cause of many conflicts. (2) Ongoing communication between people and their governments at all levels through the implementation of Rio Principle 10; and regular global and nationwide consultations; (3.) Education in and practice of peaceful conflict resolution starting with 8 year olds (as is already being done in a number of schools around the world); and the implementation of Eight Action Areas of the Culture of Peace..

Commitment V. Take steps to deal with economic disadvantages faced by sections of society who are discriminated against, and ensure equal access to opportunities and resources.

Comment 1. Providing access to the Internet and all of the many free and inexpensive resources this provides is a powerful tool to empower people to develop their individual potential and to dip into the fount of creativity that exists within each. ODA can usefully be applied to this relatively inexpensive way of unleashing individual potential at every level of society, including among the most marginalized. Internet access can be facilitated to whole communities where there are computers with broadband Internet connections available to all residents, as well as facilitators who can access the Internet for those who are (IT) illiterate.

Comment 2. It is essential there should be a level playing field for cooperatives. There should be no limits to cooperative activity; individual reserves should not be considered as income by the tax system, as it is not possible to make any kind of individual appropriation; accounting standards should recognize cooperative members' shares as equity and not liability even if the members have an unconditional right of withdrawal; they should not be made to carry more administrative burdens and costs than other types of companies (e.g. capital requirements, auditing)

Commitment VI. Ensure that physical environments create opportunities for, rather than discourage, social interaction.

Comment Given the creativity of people, it would be helpful to ensure the Implementing Article 20 (1) of the UNDHR at all levels of society: Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, as well as access to modern communications technology. See also above comments.

Commitment VII. Ensure an education system that offers equal opportunity for developing the knowledge skills, capacities and networks necessary for children to become productive, engaged members of society and that demonstrates a commitment to a shared society and educates children to understand and respect others.

Comment This should enable them to become accountable for their impact on the Earth System, (e.g. through constant awareness of their individual global footprints.); as well as of the positive contributions they are making to sustainable development.

Commitment VIII.

their experiences with other identity groups and working together with those groups on common concerns. (See all above comments)

Commitment X. Take steps to reduce tensions and hostility between communities and ensure members of all communities are protected from abuse, intimidation and violence.

Comment Legal structures must be strengthened at all levels and further developed at the global level to safely steward the Earth's resources; ensure their fair use; and to bring to justice those who harm the Earth System, including their fellow human beings. Proposals include that Ecocide is proclaimed and treated as a Crime Against Peace; the creation of an Environmental Court; the governance of the Earth System via the UN with input from all people globally, possibly by expanding the mandate of the Trusteeship Council. The use of citizens peacekeeping initiatives; and reconciliation courts using the UBUNTU approach which stresses the unity between all. (See also Comments under III)

2. More information on the Sharing (Social and Solidarity, Zero Cost) Economy

A GROUNDSWELL OF BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES BASED ON CARING, SHARING AND COOPERATION PROPELLING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Often overshadowed by social atrocities, natural disasters and economic crises, a powerful groundswell is emerging in our midst, based on caring, sharing, community and cooperation. Its various aspects are referred to as cooperatives, commons, collaborative or solidarity economies and shared societies. It is developing societal and business forms and other wherewithal well suited to an interdependent, sustainable world. It is doing so for free or financed t

There are 2.6 million cooperative enterprises worldwide, which, like other businesses, are profit-based and contribute to the building of economies at all levels. They provide 250 million jobs (12% of jobs in the G20 countries). With (according to UN statistics) one billion members worldwide, they have annual revenues of USD 250 trillion—the equivalent of the 7th largest economy in the world.

Their Cooperative Identity is based on the principle of cooperation, expressed as follows:

μ Cooperation between their members since they are managed by their workers (i.e. owneroperated) profits are shared democratically among all involved, thereby creating a sense of cohesiveness among members as well as an ethic of hard work. They tend to do well even in times of economic downturn.

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glocally to regenerate species, land or water quality. Schools, universities, insurance companies, banks, businesses in every possible field are being run as cooperatives, including DesJardins, the largest bank in Canada, Migros the huge Swiss supermarket chain, and HMOs in the USA. Agricultural products are the largest Danish export and these are produced almost exclusively by cooperatives.

GOVERNMENTS often play a key role in these so-called "solidarity economies"

They can support their development, use and implementation. Examples include trade unions, workers' compensation, national health systems, the Norwegian Pension Fund and Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal. Senegal has an Ecovillage Ministry.

Governments via the UN administer Global Commons, including Antarctica, Outer Space and the Seabed Outside of National Jurisdiction.

COMMUNITIES OF CARING, SHARING AND COOPERATION HAVE COMMON CHARACTERISTICS that go to the very heart of today's sustainable development efforts.

Here are just a few;

1. They empower people to take responsibility for those resources and aspects of their lives that most contribute to the development of their individual potential;
2. Each member, be it an individual, organization or nation, is recognized for his/her/its individuality; diversity is seen as a means to strengthen the bonds that unite them.
3. All participants are seen as equal in terms of decision making. This empowers all individually and increases their motivation to contribute to their common endeavours.
4. All participants benefit from collective successes. This causes them to work hard, so that commons and cooperatives tend to do well even in times of economic downturn.
5. These communities are inclusive, empower all stakeholders and leave no one behind.
6. They are dedicated to the three pillars of sustainable development and naturally integrate these in their activities, thus overcoming the silo effect.
7. They take good care of natural and social resources and foster social cohesiveness.
8. Together they dispose over huge financial assets and other invaluable resources that they share both internally and with the communities in which they are active.
9. They have become powerful engines for sustainable development worldwide.
10. Individual people, organizations and nations are increasingly members of multiple sharing communities, each person forming a node in a growing network of caring, sharing and cooperation that through its many linkages unites people across national and other borders in a multiplicity of activities dedicated to sharing and sustainability.

Ethan Miller, founding member of the U.S. Solidarity Economy Network

(www.usse.org) writes: The core idea is simple: alternatives are everywhere and our

model of economic organization as it is a process of economic organizing; it is not a vision, but an active process of collective visioning.

Compiled by Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska (commonsActionUN@gmail.com), coordinator of the UN Major Group Commons Cluster, a network of UN ECOSOC accredited Civil Society Organizations and individuals that advocates commons based approaches to sustainable develop at the UN. See www.commonSACTIONfortheUnitedNations.org

SYSTEMIC ISSUES TO PROMOTE FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

Read by Shani Nelson Zongo, Youth Member of the Intitute of Planetary Synthesis, a
Founding Member of the UN NGO Major Group Commons Cluster

The need of such a shift was underscored by Nobel Laureate Paul Stiglitz at a Side Event organized by the Permanent Mission of France.

The Commons Cluster over the years has worked out a number of points that can promote these two shifts. They were presented in the longer version submitted to the UN Secretariat.

Thank you, Mr. Co-

externalities caused by individual community members into the decision-making of the community as a whole.

7. Encouraging the creation of Social Charters to affirm the sovereignty of human beings over their means of sustenance and well-being arising through a customary or emerging identification with an ecology, a cultural resource area, a social need, or a form of collective labour. These charters are covenants and institutions negotiated by commons communities for the protection and sustenance of their resources. They use a commoning approach to ensure that community access to — and sovereignty over — their own commons is maintained and that the interests of all stakeholders are represented.
8. Encouraging the creation of commons trusts, legal entities responsible for protecting shared assets, inherited from past generations on behalf of current and future generations.
Community rules can be set up to prevent resource overuse while ensuring fair access and to.
 - a. decide on a non-monetized metric to evaluate the sustainability, quality of life and wellbeing of a commons and its community of users and producers,
 - b. apply this metric to the preservation of the resource by creating a cap on its usage,
 - c. monitor resource creation, usage and restoration according to this cap to

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Each of these promote democratic participation in planning sustainable development.

14. Implementing the allwin principle in all governmental decisionmaking. This recognizes that, since all people and all of nature are parts of one integrated whole, the wellbeing of all people and all of nature are essential to us all. (See also www.worldcitizensaction.com)
15. Instituting open source and General Public Licenses – commons based alternatives to Intellectual Property Rights. The latter have begun to reduce humanity's capacity to adapt to emerging issues and global challenges. The extension of their applicability is also used now to hamper progress and further enclose the commons and should not be accepted or permitted. (See also: <http://onthecommons.org/aboutcommons>, www.opensource.org and www.gnu.org)
16. Establishing a commons based approach to education at the bottom of the pyramid –i.e., children in all nations to ensure that commons principles are instituted for future generations. This basic human right of education in the formative years is included in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
17. Creating a system whereby all people can care for and manage their impact on Earth's Systems. The legal aspects and metrics that might be used are at present being developed (see www.earth-condominium.org.)

Members of the UN Major Group Commons Cluster call on Governments to create a Panel of Experts (High Level or from the UN Secretariat) to develop a step by step plan for the implementation of a commons based economy. This panel would consult with Governments, relevant IGOs and CSOs, Major Groups and all other stakeholders to ensure the greatest possible support for their work.

The Following Members of the Commons Cluster requested a special mention with regard to the above points: Association of World Citizens; Institute for Planetary Synthesis, Global Commons Trust, the WII Network, Commons Action for the United Nations, the Earth Rights Institute, Kosmos Associates, Inc.; International Association

μinternational investment
μforeign exchange transactions
μinternational trade
μinternational airline tickets
μmaritime freight transport
μocean fishing
μseabed mining
μoffshore oil and gas
μinternational oil trading
μsatellite parking spaces

developed a set of principles or rules which ought to be included and addressed

Firstly. To form partnerships with cooperatives whose very founding principles demand they share profits with both their own members and with the communities of which they are a part locally to globally.

These combined have one billion members worldwide; annual revenues of USD 3 trillion. Members are at the same time its owners and its produces. Thus all the benefits and wealth generated by cooperatives is redistributed in a fairer way among their owner operators and members, as well as society at large, instead of investors. They operate according to established values and principles.

Secondly: To request all companies wishing to enter public private partnerships to allow themselves to be graded according to past services rendered. The grade could be a question: How much does a corporation contribute financially or in kind to the achievement of a nations sustainable development indicators in comparison to the profits it makes off the same initiative for its investors.

Taxes could also be levied within each nation where a corporation is active according to their grade. The greater percentage they contribute the less taxes they pay.

There are choices governments shall be making between potential donor corporations. With globalization, corporations are increasingly dependent on operating on international markets. lwp0 1ate(e0(is)1(a-1(s)-1(ha)-1 i)10)-2(l)-2icn /1(s)-1(nop90. (tio)2(n)2(ng)5(2 90 4(tios

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMONS CLUSTER MADE DURING